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OPINION METER
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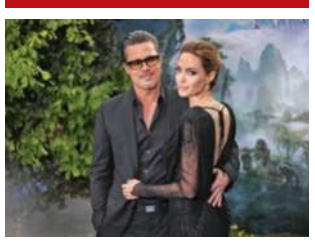
INSIDE

NATION

Police add texting to their crisis negotiation arsenal. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



Angelina Jolie she is mulling an on-screen reunion with partner Brad Pitt. ➤ PAGE 21

Ecotourism project eyed in Susupe Lake

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A property owner right in the front of the main entrance to Susupe Lake is looking to develop an ecotourism business in the area that will benefit not only the community but tourists as well.

Along with his family, Jesse Leon Guerrero owns the property and wants to transform the lake into an ecotourism destination that will complement the growing tourism industry of the CNMI. The road into Lake Susupe is also privately owned by Guerrero's family.

Guerrero said he is working with Small Business Administration director Perry

See ECOTOURISM on Page 4

The sunset's rays hit the canopies of the ironwood trees on the northern side of Lake Susupe. Photo is taken from a rowboat at the center of the lake. JAYSON CAMACHO

Political status commission nixed

» Governor disapproves 2 other bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos vetoed a bill creating a new commission to examine whether the CNMI people desire continuing the islands' current political relationship with the United States, saying it is doubtful that such commission could "unilaterally" alter that relationship. The governor said one of the bill's provisions is "almost certain" to be unconstitutional.

The veto comes almost two months after the CNMI marked on March 24 the 38th year of the 1976 signing of the mutually negotiated Covenant that made the Northern Marianas a part of the American political family, and paved the way for its qualified people to become U.S. citizens in 1986.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the Federal and Foreign

See POLITICAL on Page 4

Consultants contracts 'no more than $400K'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

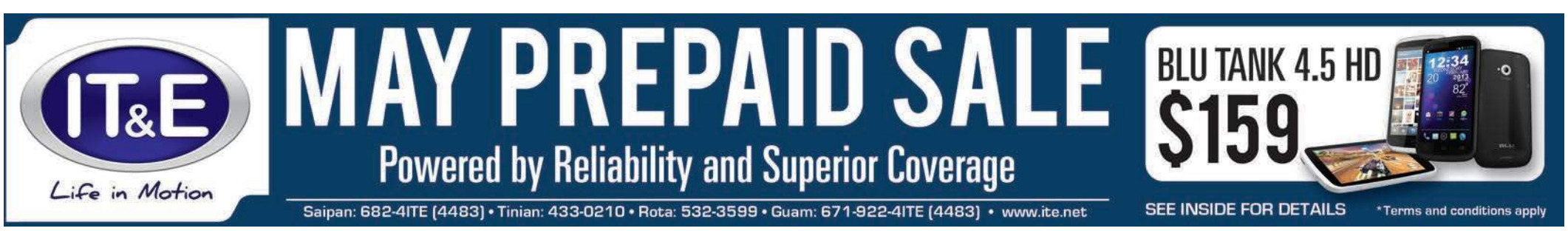
The two U.S.-based international consulting and investigation/management service groups that the Lottery Commission hired for a total of "no more than $400,000" presented yesterday on Capital Hill about their expertise and expectations in reviewing the remaining application for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion casino resort on Saipan. Only

» Brief portion of Best Sunshine's presentation today open to public

See CONSULTANTS on Page 4

Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, left, gestures as he talks to members of the consulting and investigations firm B2G Global Strategies, which the commission hired to look into the remaining applicant for an exclusive Saipan casino license. From left, Igisomar, B2G Global Strategies lead investigator for the CNMI project John Bruce, chief operating officer/project manager Steven L. Gomez, and retired senior special Drug Enforcement Administration agent "Doc" Murdock. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2 cousins say Barpery sexually assaulted them in motel. PAGE 3
'Fuel charge' to replace LEAC, revised method endorsed. PAGE 6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Local

4 students advance to nationals of Mathcourt competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The top four awardees of the Public School System State Mathcourt Competition gather for a group photo with the contest coordinator and volunteers on Saturday at the San Antonio Elementary School. Agape Christian School's Frederick Dean Michael Guintu, Eucon's Victoria Santos, Saipan Community School's Seung Ju Lee, and ACS's Mubei Wang comprise Team CNMI that will advance to the national Mathleague on June 7 in Houston, Texas.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A fifth grader from Agape Christian School was adjudged the big winner in this year's State Mathcourt competition after he received the gold medal award on Saturday at San Antonio Elementary School.

Agape's Frederick Dean Michael Guintu will lead Team CNMI, which advances to the national competition for elementary division representing the Commonwealth. That contest will be held on June 7 in Houston Texas.

Guintu will be joined at the nationals by silver medalist Victoria Santos, a fifth grader from Eucon International School; bronze awardee Seung Ju Lee, a 5th grader from Saipan Community School; and fourth placer Mubei Wang, also a 5th grader from Agape Christian School.

According Reo Arriola, PSS elementary Mathcourt coordinator, Saturday's state competition was conducted using the Mathleague.org format. The four top winners earned their spots to compete in the first-ever mathleague.org national competition. Contenders in the state rounds on Saturday were fourth to fifth graders in public and private schools. To be eligible for the state round, they must be named winners in the initial Mathcourt events held since the beginning of the school year.

Besides the top four awardees, also recognized Saturday were the following students who will serve as Team CNMI alternates: Enji Wang, a 5th grader from ACS; Gianpaolo Borromeo, 5th grader from GCA; Joanah Jiminez, 4th grader from Eucon; and Hyun Jae Park, 4th grader from SIS.

These students were the fifth to eighth placers in the state competition.

For the team categories, the gold medal went to Team ACS-Chillipino composed of Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, Victoria Ancheta, Kevin Tang, and Wendy Tang.

Team SIS 2, composed of Hyun Jae Park, Christina Kim, Arabella Loste, and Daniele Colombo, won the silver award.

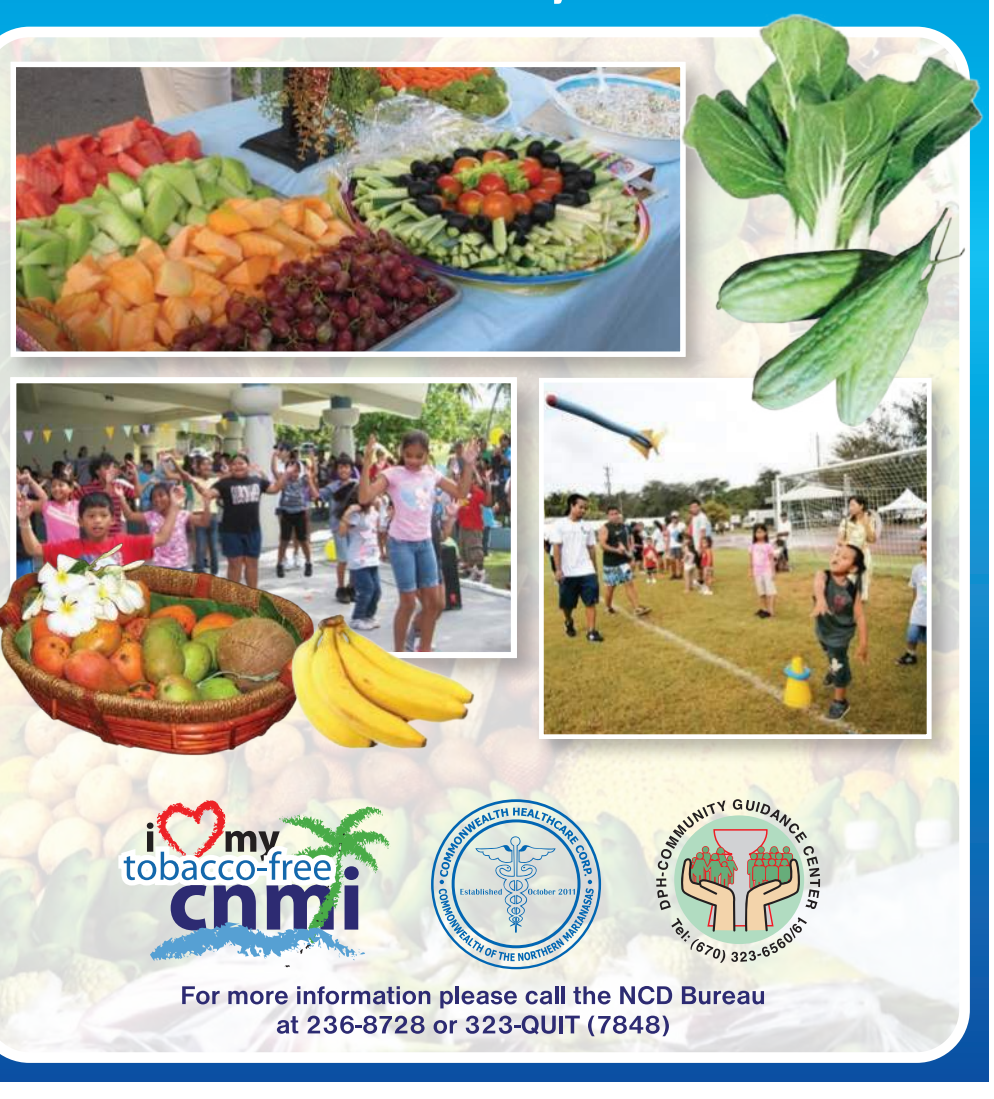
The bronze went to Team ACS-Chimoa with members Enji Wang, Mubei Wang, and Tychicus Xu.

The Mathcourt contest for elementary has three divisions: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 divisions. The top four in the 4-5 division will represent the CNMI in the national competition.

During Saturday's state rounds, the four top winners in the 2-3 division—Joseph Jimenez, Allia Pillarina, Katie Choi, and John Paul Labadan—were invited to compete against the 4-5 division contenders.

The CNMI Mathcourt competition is a series of meets that occur throughout the school year. At each meet, several tests are offered to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level. The competition began in 2005 in order to promote mathematics in the CNMI.

Non-Communicable Diseases, or NCD's, are diseases that cannot be spread from person to person like the FLU. NCDs are diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity and are sometimes called chronic diseases or lifestyle diseases. The best way to keep from getting these NCDs is by eating more fruit and vegetables and less processed food such as canned meat, and sugary cereals, getting daily exercise, limit alcohol use to no more than one drink a day and be tobacco free.



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DEEP SEA MINERALS FINANCE WORKSHOP

Making sure Pacific nations not left short-changed

SUVA, Fiji—Deep sea minerals have the potential to be a game changer for the Pacific. Whether they will bring a change for the good or the bad will be determined by the financial management of governments and their ability to adopt and enforce sensible environmental safeguards. If revenue is managed transparently and prudently while protecting the environment, deep sea minerals could greatly improve the economies and livelihoods of the Pacific Islands countries.

To address these issues, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is holding a regional workshop, the fifth in its technical training series. This workshop will be held in Cook Islands on May 13–16 and will center on the "financial aspects" of the upcoming deep sea minerals industry.

The workshop will bring together more than 60 Pacific Island government minerals and finance officials and experts from around the globe for the first regional event of its kind on managing the potential wealth generated from the extraction of deep sea minerals. Although deep sea mining is yet to occur worldwide, there is much commercial interest in mineral formations, such as nodules, crusts and seafloor massive sulphides that have been discovered on the seabed, thousands of meters below sea-level, particularly in the Pacific Ocean.

The event is organized by SPC's European Union-funded Deep Sea Minerals Project, working with the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre—a subsidiary of the International Monetary Fund.

A wide range of interested stakeholders will attend the workshop, from as far afield as South Sudan, Norway, and Mauritius as well as Timor Leste, with the aim of sharing their experiences and professional expertise. The workshop will focus on how countries that choose to proceed to mining can capture a fair "deal," through good governance of revenue received, and learn from past lessons, both elsewhere and closer to home.

This is where the SPC-EU DSM Project regional training events play an important role. The workshops are designed to prepare Pacific Island countries for all aspects of regulating their deep sea minerals. Previous workshops covered other subjects, including environmental, legal, social and geological aspects of DSM.

The deep sea minerals industry has the potential to make a positive impact on the lives of Pacific people; however, there are issues, risks and uncertainties that need to be addressed. The DSM Project stresses the importance of engagement and participation among a wide variety of stakeholders, from local communities all the way up to regional non-governmental organizations, to enable Pacific countries to make well informed decisions for their economies, their people, and their islands. ***(SPC)***

2 cousins say Barpery sexually assaulted them in motel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two cousins testified in Superior Court yesterday that security guard Parvez MD. Barpery sexually abused them in separate incidents in May 2013 at a motel in San Jose while they were still minors.

Barpery's former girlfriend, Daisina Suda, also took the witness stand and told the jury how Barpery allegedly sexually assaulted a 17-year-old girl in front of her inside the motel.

Barpery, 44, is on trial for one count of sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace. The charges involve one victim only.

Barpery's trial will resume today, Tuesday. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the case.

Assistant attorneys general James McAllister and Margo Brown are prosecuting the case. Attorney Daniel Guidotti is counsel for the defendant.

The alleged victim, who is now 18 years old, testified that Suda and Barpery brought her and her 3-year-old brother to San Jose Motel in May 2013.

The alleged victim said that Suda and Barpery drank several cans of beer inside the motel. When her brother went to take a shower, she said Barpery started kissing her and removed her clothes, but she resisted.

She said Barpery yelled at Suda, who was next to them, then sexually penetrated her. The alleged victim said the sexual assault lasted about 10 minutes and that she was yelling, crying, and screaming the whole time.

She said Barpery only stopped when she screamed real loud. "I went to the restroom. I cried there," she said.

The alleged victim said when she came out of the restroom later, Suda, Barpery, and her brother were no longer there. She said she saw blood on the bed sheet and that it was her first time to have sex.

She said Suda, Barpery, and her brother later arrived, bringing food with them.

The alleged victim said she neither called the police nor went to the hospital because since that incident, Suda would call her, asking her if she told anyone about it. She said she eventually told Suda's sister about the incident in November 2013.

The alleged victim's 17-year-old cousin also testified that in May 2013, Suda and Barpery also brought her to the same San Jose Motel, where three of them were drinking beer and vodka.

She said when Suda left to buy something at a store, Barpery asked her to have sex with him but she refused.

When asked what happened next, the 17-year-old girl covered her face with her left hand and did not reply. A court marshal handed her a glass of water.

After a few minutes, the teenager said that she was drunk at that time and that Barpery took advantage of her by holding her hands and having sex with her. She was only 16 at the time.

Suda, 41, said that Barpery was her boyfriend from December 2012 to September 2013. She said Barpery was nice to her and her children during the first few months of their relationship. It was in February 2013 that Barpery allegedly became abusive and controlling.

Suda said she, Barpery, the alleged victim, and her brother went to the San Jose Motel in May 2013. While there, Barpery allegedly said he and the alleged victim should marry so he will get an immigration status.

Suda said Barpery later stated he wants to sleep with her and the alleged victim.

"I didn't say anything because I'm scared of him," Suda said, adding that the defendant would threaten to kill her and her children.

While the boy was in the shower room, Barpery started kissing the alleged victim so she got mad and told him he's sick, Suda said.

Suda said the alleged victim was crying and struggling as the defendant sexually assaulted her.

She said Barpery yelled at her to hold the victim's feet.

"I was scared. I was crying too," Suda said.

Suda said Barpery reminded her not to tell anybody about the incident or he would kill her and her children.

"We were scared. He's really abusive," she said.

Suda admitted that she was Barpery's co-defendant and that she signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace only.

"I want the truth to come out," Suda said, adding that even without the plea deal it will not change her testimony.

Suda said one time she wanted to stab herself with a knife because she blamed herself for not being strong.

Suda's sister Trasy also testified that the alleged victim told her in November 2013 that Barpery raped her inside a motel.

The government's first witness yesterday was police detective Isapen Bokuku, who took over the investigation from another police detective.

Bokuku testified how the investigation led to the arrest of Suda and Barpery in January 2014.

Bokuku agreed with Guidotti that she did not get any physical evidence in this case.

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Woman in fake marriage case wants to go home to China

» Pregnant defendant asks court to be sentenced early

A woman convicted in January over a fake marriage case wants the federal court to sentence her as early as possible because of her desire to return to China due to her father's illness and her recent discovery that she's pregnant.

Xiaoying Tang, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to advance her sentencing date from the currently scheduled date of June 20, 2014 to May 27, 2014.

Horey said Tang wants to go back to China at the earliest possible because her father has lung cancer and that she recently discovered she's pregnant and due to deliver in December 2014.

Horey said the prosecution and the U.S. Probation Office have been consulted and both agreed to new scheduling dates for sentencing and submitting a presentence investigation report.

Last January, 12 jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Tang guilty of conspiracy to defraud the U.S., visa fraud, and false statement.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the sentencing for June 20, 2014 at 9am.

Tang was allowed to remain at liberty until the sentencing date on the same terms and conditions of her pre-trial release.

The indictment charged Tang and Jesse Juan Teigita Dowai with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S., visa fraud, and false statement.

Last Dec. 30, Dowai pleaded guilty to the conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S.

According to the charges, in September 2011, Dowai and Tang submitted Forms I-130 and I-485 containing false and fraudulent information and representations.

In February 2012, Tang lied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in support of her Form I-485.

On Sept. 28, 2011, Tang aided Dowai in falsely stating in his Form I-130 that they had "lived together" at Mc Arthur St., Gualo Rai, Saipan from Oct. 1, 2009 to "present."

During an interview with Homeland Security Investigations special agents on March 22, 2013, Tang falsely stated that after marrying Dowai she moved with him into an apartment in Garapan, where they lived for seven months. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CONSULTANTS

From Page 1

at least one member of the general public other than the media showed up before and after the executive session.

Commission chair Sixto Igisomar hopes that members of the public would take the time to listen directly to a brief portion of applicant Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s presentation at their 1pm meeting today.

Igisomar asks that the public not "grill" or question Best Sunshine about its background and plans as those will be discussed during the executive session with the commission's consultants.

Igisomar also told *Saipan Tribune* that the total amount of contracts with casino investigator B2G Global Strategies and gaming consultant The Innovation Group of Companies is "no more than $400,000."

This is a portion of the $2 million in nonrefundable application fee that Best Sunshine and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. paid.

The rest will be used by the Gaming Commission in formulating the regulations and other organizational matters, among other things.

The commission rejected on Thursday the application of Marianas Stars, citing its failure to deposit in escrow $30 million by the May 5 deadline. Marianas Stars is considering filing a protest or a lawsuit over its application's rejection.

Igisomar, also the Department of Commerce secretary, said the Lottery Commission is moving forward.

The Lottery Commission has until June 19 to decide whether or not to grant an exclusive Saipan casino license to Best Sunshine.

Best Sunshine is a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of First Natural Foods Holdings Ltd., which is proposing to change its name to Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.

For years, any Saipan casino bill from the House of Representatives was dead on arrival at the Senate. That changed this year. Saipan voters also twice rejected casinos when the question was placed on the ballot.

Elected officials said times have changed, and the CNMI needs to find a new revenue source to meet its growing obligations, including restoring retirees' 25-percent deferred pension. This is a general election year in the CNMI.

The $30 million in two-year advance casino license is supposed to be the source of funding for the deferred pension's restoration along with the payment of interest on certain withdrawn retirement contributions.

Casino investigator

Lottery Commission members Igisomar, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, and Deputy Attorney General Gil Birnbirch, along with counsel Jim Stump and assistant attorney general Reena Patel received a presentation by principals of B2G Global Strategies and The Innovation Group of Companies in the governor's main conference room.

The B2G Global Strategies' team that is currently on Saipan is composed of chief operating officer Steven L. Gomez, a former FBI special agent-in-charge with 25 years investigative experience, along with lead investigator John Bruce, a business intelligence and integrity risk operations expert.

The team includes retired senior special Drug Enforcement Administration agent "Doc" Murdock, currently a Saipan resident.

For the CNMI project, the B2G Global Strategies team's goal is to "conduct comprehensive due diligence and background investigation to ensure suitability, integrity, and ethical financial dealings of proposed developer."

"We have the ability to customize a team of experts, depending on what the client needs," Gomez told the Lottery Commission yesterday. "This is an excellent example, this project here in the Commonwealth…"

Gomez is B2G's project manager for the CNMI project, with president Tim McNally as project advisor; Bruce as lead investigator; Frank Schreck as special adviser; and Lisa Garcia, Julie Quinn, and Katherine Williams as analysts/researchers.

"We approach every case… with integrity, with independence and objectivity. We are not bound to make any type of decision. We look for the truth, research the facts, provide our analysis based on that information and then present those results to the commission…" Gomez told commissioners.

B2G is an international consulting and investigations firm specializing in a wide range of services including security consulting, due diligence investigations, and strategic solutions for the business sector and government entities in the United States, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

Gaming consultant

The Innovation Group of Companies team currently in the CNMI is composed of president Michael Soll and Joel Rittvo, director of architecture design. The Innovation Group is an international provider of consulting and management services for the gaming, hospitality, leisure, and entertainment industries.

Soll has worked for global entertainment operators including as vice president-casinos at Hard Rock Café International Inc., vice president-planning and development at Caesars Entertainment, and director of asset management at Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Rittvo has more than 25 years of design, construction, and project management experience.

Under the laws that authorized casino gaming on Saipan, the holder of the exclusive Saipan casino license is required to invest at least $2 billion in a casino resort with at least 2,000 guest rooms.

POLITICAL

From Page 1

Affairs Committee that reviewed and recommended the bill's passage, said yesterday that he's disappointed with the veto.

He said he and other members are still reviewing the governor's message to see whether they would try to override the veto.

"I am not in conformance with the opinion. There is uniqueness in the Commonwealth's relationship with the United States pursuant to the Covenant," he said.

House Bill 18-112, House Draft 1, authored by Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), seeks to create a Second Marianas Political Status Commission to examine whether the people of the CNMI desire continuing its relationship with the U.S. pursuant to the Covenant.

The proposed commission would also determine whether that continuation of relationship is in the CNMI people's best interest, or whether some other political status would better enable them to fulfill their "aspirations of full and meaningful self-government."

The governor cited these reasons for vetoing the bill: unconstitutional provision and a unilateral alteration of the political relationship between the CNMI and the U.S.

Section 4 of the bill states partly that anyone appointed to serve on the commission shall be, among other things, "a person of Northern Marianas descent as defined in Article XII 4 of the NMI Constitution."

"Unfortunately, it is almost certain that the emphasized language violates the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I 6 of the Commonwealth Constitution," the governor said in his May 9 veto message to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Inos added that the equal protection clause prohibits the government from discriminating between similarly situated individuals. Importantly, he said, the equal protection clause's prohibitions are not limited to discrimination on the basis of race or gender.

"A court reviewing HB 18-112, HD1 would almost certainly find the requirement that a commission member must be a 'person of Northern Marianas descent as defined in Article XII 4 of the N.M.I. Constitution' constitutes invidious discrimination in violation of the equal protection clauses of the United States and Commonwealth Constitutions," the governor said.

Inos said such a court would likely find that many of the CNMI's citizens would be unfairly excluded from holding office for a commission that would decide an extremely important issue that affects all Commonwealth residents.

He said the fact that the restriction is not racial is not enough to survive a constitutional attack.

"Finally, it is doubtful that a Second MPSC could unilaterally alter the relationship between the Commonwealth and the United States," the governor told the Legislature.

He said Covenant Section 105 provides that the fundamental provisions of the Covenant—namely Articles I, II, and III and Sections 501 and 805 may be modified only with the consent of the U.S. and CNMI governments.

"Therefore, even if the voters of the Commonwealth ultimately voted to approve changes to the Covenant, the United States would need to consent to any changes to the fundamental Covenant provisions identified above," Inos said.

House members debated at length the CNMI's political relationship with the United States and federal control over local minimum wage, immigration, and certain areas for military uses before passing HB 18-112, HD1.

Proponents of the bill said it "doesn't hurt" to re-examine the CNMI-U.S. political relationship, while others said Covenant Section 902 discussions could be the better venue. Still, others said the Legislature should place the question on the ballot for voters to decide, before creating a commission.

The governor also vetoed two other bills: HB 18-87 and HB 18-1, HS1, SD1.

The first bill intends to punish public officials that issue unlawful orders to subordinates, which the governor said is already part of existing law, among other things. The second bill ratifies the adoption of the 2009 editions of the International Building Code and International Fire Code, but the governor said the measure violates the Constitution, among other things.

ECOTOURISM

From Page 1

Inos Jr. to raise $40,000 for the project. According to him, he has been seeking funds from the government for a while, but with little to no help at all.

"Nearly a hundred tourists come here everyday just to see the lake, but sometimes the tourists leave because there is no sign nor any infrastructure. …I plan to put up a small business here that will benefit our community," Guerrero said.

According to him, the money from the business will primarily go to the maintenance of the eco-tourism infrastructure that will be built on the property as well as for education.

"My intentions is to share it with the public so kids can come over and play and also have tourists come over and relax," he said.

Guerrero plans to build a small hut 10 feet above the ground and a small snack bar for visitors.

"We have 12 Yamaha boats that cost $6,000 each, along with life jackets and paddles ready," Guerrero said.

He also said that kayaks and rowboats would be ordered later after funding is found.

Economic impact

Ecotourism has the potential to bring in much needed influx of capital and revenue into a local economy, according to the International Ecotourism Society.

Well-planned and managed ecotourism sites reinvest some of the profits in local conservation efforts—a positive business practice that recognizes sustainability.

Guerrero said the business will help the community utilize Saipan's natural resources and that Lake Susupe "is a natural resource in itself."

A modest tourist industry requires some infrastructure, but building roads, hotels, and restaurants can have a negative impact on local ecosystems. Guerrero said his business wouldn't harm the ecosystem of the lake.

For travelers, one of the major benefits of ecotourism is the opportunity to experience and interact with people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

"In my experience, tourists from Japan don't want to come here and see the same thing as they see in their home place but also experience the culture and the area they are visiting," Guerrero said.

Destination enhancement

Ed Arriola, vice chair of the Marianas Visitors Authority Destination Enhancement Committee, said he has been trying to get funding for the project.

"I have been trying to see if there was a way to get some sort of funding to build a dock, viewing area, and other recreational sections for local and tourists but planning takes time," he said.

According to Arriola, the Capital Improvement Project office presented the project years ago but there were various regulations that would not allow the construction of a dock.

"Jesse [Guerrero] is a great guy and only wants to build something so that the children of the CNMI can come and visit this place," Arriola said.

JAYSON CAMACHO

A manmade pagoda sits at the edge of the Susupe Lake. When standing at the pagoda, the whole lake can be seen as well as the scenery of the mountains and lands behind the lake area.

"Tourists find their way to the lake via the Saipan map, but they also want more to do. They also want to swim, fish, and go rowing," he added.

Lake experience

Saipan Tribune had the opportunity to get on a rowboat with Guerrero for a tour of the lake and venture into its swampy areas.

The lake is filled with life and sounds of nature. Cranes and birds consider Lake Susupe their home, and in the evening a vast number of birds of different sizes settle down for the night along the lake's environs. Larger birds live among the bushes that cover the lake's edges and use it for nesting grounds.

Turtles of various sizes pop their heads out of the water once in a while. Fish swim just under the lake's surface, either hunting for lingering insects or just swimming around.

The woods around the lake are filled with more than seven smaller ponds that is another food source for animals in the area. The forest floor is carpeted with undisturbed needles from ironwood trees.

When asked if he has a plan for those who want to venture into the outskirts of the lake, Guerrero said: "We will have a jungle safari and I will be getting help from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for guide books to be used for everyone."

Guerrero said that ecotourism is above all tourism and that travelers who participate want to have a positive impact on the environment and are looking for a great vacation.

"Opening this ecotourism site would not only be a benefit for the community but also a new experience for tourists. They want to experience the island itself and Lake Susupe plays an important role in that," he said.

PSS to press its case for adequate funding for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan vowed yesterday that both the State Board of Education and the Public School System would do all they can to persuade the government to allocate an adequate budget for quality public education.

Today, education leaders and stakeholders are expected to grace the budget hearing on Capital Hill and they promised to come equipped with all the necessary data and records to prove their claims.

In an interview yesterday, Sablan could not hide her disappointment at what the Executive Branch has proposed for PSS next fiscal year. Gov. Eloy S. Inos had recommended a $33.2 million budget for PSS, which is $7.3 million shy of what the BOE had endorsed, $40 million, for fiscal year 2015.

"I know we're challenged with the budget. I just hope they will give us the opportunity to present and for them to clearly see the big picture why PSS is requesting for a budget that is adequate to provide quality education in order for students to be successful," said Sablan.

She hinted that failure to get the proper amount for PSS this upcoming fiscal year could result in a declaration of a state of emergency for CNMI public schools.

"Maybe I will ask the Board of Education to declare an emergency for us to really make sure we get the amount we need to adequately provide quality education," said Sablan.

A budget that's lower than $40 million, Sablan said, will mean more large class sizes in many schools. Teacher-to-student ratio will remain at an all-time high especially in secondary campuses. And there will be fewer teachers and counselors attending to the needs of an increasing student population.

"The implication is really going to trickle down right into the classrooms where we need the most support," Sablan said, adding that the $33.2 million being proposed for PSS would result in "a lot of compromises."

PSS cannot continue to operate this way, she said. "We want to be world-class, we want to be the best, so give us the adequate funding that's needed for quality education, that's what we're asking for [from this government]," she said.

Sablan said that PSS has about 400 classroom teachers right now. Under its proposed $40-million budget for 2015, it wants to hire 35 more classroom teachers.

What if the Legislature goes ahead and approves the $33.2-million budget for public schools and then promise to do a supplemental funding for PSS?

Sablan doubts this will happen. "If there's a supplemental budget, then I want to see it in writing," she said.

When asked why PSS would choose to declare a state of emergency if it doesn't get the funding it wants, Sablan said, "To me, an emergency is not having the adequate support for the school district, which places us in a very critical situation. We don't want to compromise the safety of our schools. The Constitution mandates us to provide a compulsory and free public education…so it better be adequate."

Sablan said that a "state of emergency" declaration for PSS is not meant to sound like a threat.

"I don't want everybody to think that as a threat, but if we are to provide that adequate quality education that will ensure student success…that's what we're letting you know," she said.

Sablan said the governor's proposed $33.2-million budget is based on the $134 million government projected revenues next fiscal year. However, she noted that "revenues have gone up."

"I know we always do this [budget hearing]. And every year I do it, nothing happens in our favor," she added.

ROAD WAVING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Cancer Association board members, including president Lauri Ogumoro, second from right, and supporters wave their signs across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe during a roadside waving on Wednesday last week as part of the Oral Cancer Project.

Convicted child molester applies for parole

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Convicted child molester Patrick Mendiola Calvo, who was slapped with an eight-year prison term in May 2010, is now applying for parole.

According to the Board of Parole, Calvo is among five applicants for parole at a hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, at the Department of Public Safety's conference room in Susupe.

BOP's notice indicated that the parole hearing will begin at 9am and, if needed, will continue on Thursday at 8:30am in the same DPS conference room.

A Superior Court jury found Calvo guilty in September 2009 of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in 2008.

On May 27, 2010, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced the then-47-year-old Calvo to eight years in prison for sexual assault in the second degree, eight years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, five years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and six months in prison for disturbing the peace.

Naraja merged the sentences for the first three charges. The sentence for the last charge is concurrent with the first three other charges. This means that the businessman should serve a total of eight years in prison for all charges.

Naraja required Calvo to perform, among other things, 1,500 hours of community work service, register as a sex offender, submit to HIV testing, and seek a clinical psychiatric evaluation treatment.

In 2000, the government filed two criminal cases against Calvo for allegedly sexually abusing two minors in 1997 and 1998. In one case, the jury acquitted him. In November 2005, the court dismissed the second case after the government moved to drop the charges.

Meanwhile, the four convicted persons also seeking parole are Terrence A. Fitial, Franklin Jesse Atalig, Daniel N. Sablan Jr., and Leon Joaquin Sanchez.

Camacho allows Shai to post property bond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court allowed Tinian Department of Finance resident director Edward Dela Cruz Shai yesterday to post a property bond. He was arrested on Friday for allegedly submitting false travel documents in order to cash per diem checks for his personal use.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted defense attorney Joaquin Arriola's motion to modify the $10,000 cash bail and instead allow him to post a property bond.

Camacho found Shai's wife suitable to serve as a third-party custodian.

Shai was required to appear at hearings and surrender his passport, among other conditions.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback did not oppose the motion to modify the bail and have Shai's wife declared as third-party custodian.

Arraignment will be on May 19 at 9am.

Shai, 50, was served Friday with an arrest warrant on Tinian on charges of theft by deception and misconduct in public office.

OPA investigator Juanette F. David-Atalig stated in her report that Shai submitted a total of 47 travel authorizations from 2011 to 2014. She said almost all of these travel authorizations were to travel to Saipan, supposedly to meet with various government officials for department matters.

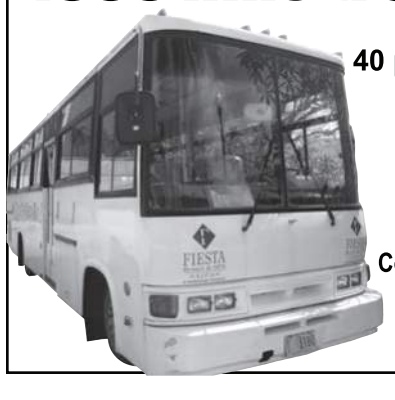
OPA learned that the officials, however, denied they ever met with Shai.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

NMHC IFB 2014-002
BID TITLE: "PURCHASING OF FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENTS FOR THE CNMI FIRE DIVISION"

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Proposal packets will be available on April 30, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.
MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - 10:00 a.m. – NMHC Conference Room, Saipan
DESCRIPTION: See Exhibit A and A-1
This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

FOR SALE
1996 Hino (FC3W Bus)

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Manual, 4 speed
Transmission
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at Fiesta Resort
Tel.: 234-6412
Ex.:1507

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

Zoning Enforcement Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct and supervise field surveys to inspect for, and verify compliance with, the Zoning Law and to collect land use information as instructed by the Zoning Administrator; Supervise and prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate the field enforcement activities of the Zoning Officers, including serving violation notices, setting schedules, designing and implementation of information gathering procedures, and writing follow-up notices; Manage all aspects of issuing, tracking, and processing zoning violation notices, including conducting pre- and post-notice consultations, reviewing for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations and reports; Maintain and publish zoning violation fine guidelines and schedules as approved by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate enforcement notice procedures, fine imposition, and abatement actions and provide weekly written status reports to the Zoning Administrator; Gather, research and coordinate property leasing and ownership information with government agencies; Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: an Associate of Arts degree either in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, or a minimum of 4 years of progressive experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $32,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from our office. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, FAX: 670-234-9666, US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA, or by Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is Tuesday, May 27th, 2014 at 4:30pm.

'Fuel charge' to replace LEAC, revised method endorsed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The levelized energy adjustment clause, more popularly known as LEAC, may soon disappear from customer's billing statement following a decision by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board to replace it with the term "fuel charge."

The CUC board unanimously approved the LEAC's abolition during last week's meeting where it also adopted a revised method to calculate the "fuel charge."

CUC management is expected to file a petition with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission this month to reflect the change.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher and chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed that LEAC is currently calculated through a six-month true-up method. The board wants this process revised to a monthly true-up to reflect actual fluctuations in the oil market. LEAC collections are used to buy fuel.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC had its last LEAC true-up in 2011 because the CPUC didn't function for two years.

According to Fletcher, because of the current true-up frequency on LEAC, which is every six months, this accounts for either under- or over-collection of fuel charges.

"According to our financial records, we under-collected a significant amount of fuel charge [in that two years]. Changing the frequency of our adjustment to monthly, we think, will make more sense for a utility our size and our finances," said Fletcher.

Besides replacing LEAC and the revised true-up method from six months to each month, the CUC board also approved the transfer of the "water electric charge" from the water division to the electric division to avoid confusion among customers.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan said that revising the true-up method for "fuel charge" will have minimal impact on customers.

Back in 2011, CUC petitioned the CPUC to replace LEAC with MFAC, or the monthly fuel adjustment clause, after determining that the LEAC methodology was too complex and was of significant cost to ratepayers.

It was revealed that because of LEAC's complexity, CUC and CPUC engaged in several disputes over the model's findings. These disputes have involved the ultimate LEAC rate itself and the amounts of any alleged over-recovery by CUC of revenues relative to fuel expenses. These disputes have only added to the costs CUC and its ratepayers have been compelled to incur in order to maintain the LEAC.

A bill was also filed endorsing the MFAC but was not acted upon by the Legislature.

BOE proclaims 'Support Our Heroes-to-Teach Week'

MONETH G. DEPOSA

State Board of Education officials and members of the PSS Management Team gather for a group photo with members of the Heroes-to-Teachers Program after the proclamation signing yesterday at the BOE conference room. The board endorsed the week of May 12 through 16 as "Support Our Heroes-to-Teach Week."

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The State Board of Education, led by chair Herman T. Guerrero, proclaimed yesterday the week of May 12 to 16 as "Support Our Heroes-to-Teach Week" at the Public School System.

Speaking before education officials and members of the Heroes-to-Teachers Program, Guerrero called on education stakeholders to recognize and support this action and to participate and show the community's unwavering commitment to these nation's heroes: Heroes-to-Teachers, Leadership Corps, Guard and Reserves, JROTC instructors, and student enlistees.

PSS established the Troops-to-Teacher Program in 2006, then renamed it Heroes-to-Teachers in May 2012. This program aims to help military personnel transition to second careers in teaching, while relieving teacher shortages in math, science, special education, and other high-needs subject areas.

PSS also established the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program in 1993 and recruited retired U.S. Army personnel to provide a program of instruction that will motivate young people to be better citizens, providing quality citizenship, character, and leadership development program.

Guerrero said it is only fitting to recognize and honor the Heroes-to-Teachers not only on this special occasion but always as they are part of the PSS family and have done so much for the nation.

"I would like also to thank you all for making PSS the greatest in the Pacific. It only shows that your efforts for our students are working," said Guerrero, adding that PSS' Troops-to-Teachers and Heroes-to-Teachers programs been big successes since their inception, along with the JROTC program.

According to PSS human resource director Cyndi Deleon Guerrero, the system has about 50 reserved, enlisted, and retired service members who are currently working in public schools.

She shared yesterday some of the highlights of the weeklong festivity that will be capped by a special luncheon treat for the Heroes-to-Teachers.

PSS federal program officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed that there are five "Heroes-to-Teachers" who are now in the process of obtaining their bachelor degrees while others are working on their associate degrees. While obtaining their degrees, Heroes-to-Teachers work full-time at PSS, mostly in the classrooms as teacher aides and instructors. Their salaries, in full or in part, are covered by federal assistance received for the program.

Education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan vowed yesterday that she will continue her dialogue and partnership with Northern Marianas College to ensure that its Heroes-to-Teachers who are currently obtaining their degrees will graduate on time. She encouraged each and every member to continue to further their studies as professionals.

Based on PSS high school exit surveys, approximately 20 to 30 percent of graduating seniors enter the U.S. Armed Forces.

Zoning postpones approval of Garapan hotel project

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Board has put off approving an application for a four-story hotel in Garapan by H.S. Lee Construction due to issues with parking spaces, 15-foot setback, and entrance of unloading and loading zones.

Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco said they would be holding another meeting to discuss the concerns that were brought up at the May 8 public hearing.

The proposed application includes a four-story hotel with 60 rooms on Beach Road in Garapan, located north of Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center and across the I Love Saipan shopping center. The area is zoned as a tourist resort.

According to Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro the applicant submitted a proposed plan for parking that included 78 parking spaces. The ground floor consists of 29 parking spaces, second floor consists of 25 spaces, and the third floor has 29 parking spaces.

Several people raised concerns over the proposed site for the hotel.

David Dougherty of Pacific Marine Enterprises Inc. said his property is adjacent to the proposed hotel and he is concerned about parking spaces.

"My concern as a future developer is the variance on the 30-some parking spaces and I have two complete floors of parking and have 66 units and that everybody is going to park on my lot," Dougherty said.

He also noted that H.S. Lee Construction's plan contains commercial spaces and a 15-foot setback from the property line.

I Love Saipan attorney Matthew Smith said they have similar concerns with parking and that it will be an issue.

"They are lacking from 32 to 52 spaces that are going to be necessary. The parking areas will be full and they will be using our parking space. Parking will be inadequate," Smith said.

He said he supports the project for a new hotel but parking is going to be a problem.

KIMO Enterprises' Lim Jae Yeul assured that parking would not be a problem. KIMO is the contractor for the planned hotel.

"The tourists will mostly be using buses so I don't think that parking spaces would be a problem. That's why we discuss it and that it is no problem. Not many tourists will use rental cars but charter buses," Lim said.

He said the only problem is if other people come into the parking lot and park in their spaces.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce said there isn't any adequate space in front of the building's entrance, based on the blueprint provided to Zoning.

Zoning board member Bruce Bateman noted said that the CNMI needs more hotel rooms due to the growing tourism industry.

"As part of the Marianas Visitors Authority, we are in need of hotel rooms for our tourists and this project will provide that," Bateman said.

Bateman said Lim has to comply with the zoning law and told him to fix the plan and bring it back at their next public hearing.

A visibly frustrated Lim said he will work with the Zoning board and draft a new blueprint.

"I am going to change it this time. I just don't understand," Lim said.

Lim also told *Saipan Tribune* that Dougherty had tried to buy the lot from his client but had been rejected.

Job preparation skills, raffle prizes at Chamber seminar

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school students from four different schools show off the certificates of attendance they received after attending the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's workshop on job preparation skills at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort on Saturday, May 10.

High school students from four different schools participated in a morning workshop at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort on Saturday, May 10. Hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the free workshop gave the student valuable information on how to successfully enter the workforce.

The workshop was led by three Chamber members who donated their time. PIC donated canvas bags that were given to each attendee upon arrival.

Jin Woo Cho, audit manager at Ernst & Young, started the event with personal budgeting advice. He demonstrated the basics of monthly budgets and outlined strategies for reevaluating it regularly. One Kagman student volunteered to present his budget estimate for the first year of college. When the group saw the final dollar amounts projected on the screen, a collective gasp was heard at the monthly total of negative $800!

Vicky Benavente, executive assistant manager at Pacific Islands Club, engaged the students with real-life examples of balancing work and family. Personal examples were lighthearted and effective. Her own family values found a place in the memory of the students who remembered the Lessons of Larry and Lucy long after the slide presentation was completed.

The importance of an effective résumé and practical tips for job interviews were covered by Jim Arenovski, owner of Island Training Solutions. Having long been an advocate of "working smarter, not harder," Arenovski provided laughs with his tales of less-than-perfect interview answers. Serious discussion on knowing one's strengths and weaknesses followed, as well as tips on personal presentation and getting your résumé in tip-top shape.

The event ended with a presentation of certificates to all attendees, and a raffle drawing. Prizes included PIC waterpark passes and PIC visors. Xerox donated the color copies for the handouts. Kanoa Resort donated the venue and gift certificates for 880 Duty Free, Isla Café, and Barefoot Beach barbecue. Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan donated lunch at World Café. First Hawaiian Bank donated an umbrella, insulated mug and bag, and speakers. IT&E donated 20 strap bags holding water bottles, wristbands, pens, key chains with flashlight, hand fans, and phone hangers.

The Chamber thanks all of the wonderful member businesses who participated and made this event a success! For more photographs of the event, visit the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. ***(PR)***

Sign-up sites for Article 12 popular initiative

The Citizens for Change of Article XII is soliciting signatures for a popular initiative to propose a constitutional amendment for the people of the CNMI to vote to amend Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution to remove the mandatory restriction on the alienation of land and allow land owners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land.

Section 805 of the Covenant Agreement between the U.S. government and the CNMI government requires that land alienation be restricted until 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in order to protect persons of the Northern Marianas descent from the expected exploitation from aggressive and economically more advanced outside groups, and to protect their ownership of land as part of their culture and tradition. It also provides that after 25 years following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the CNMI government may continue to regulate the alienation of property as provided in the Covenant without the mutual consent agreement unless a constitutional amendment is approved to repeal Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. The period of 25 years following the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement ended on Nov. 3, 2011.

This initiative gives each land owner the option of either accepting or rejecting the restrictions of Article XII in respect to their land. CCART12 says it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and its citizens that the question of whether to retain the protections of Article 12 be resolved by direct action of the people by placing this issue on the ballot at the next election.

To sign the petition, contact Cathy at csablancepeda@gmail.com, any CCART12 member, or visit their booth on the following dates/time and venue:

- Every Thursday in May (May 15, 22, 29): from 4pm to 6pm, Garapan Pavilion (across JP Center)
- All Saturdays in May: 11-1pm, Triple J TruckLoad
- Shack Restaurant: Restaurant hours
- Saipan Chamber of Commerce: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- Century Insurance lobby: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- Tinian: See Don Farrell
- Rota: See Pete DelaCruz

"By signing the petition, you are not voting yes or no on Article 12. You are, however, asking that Article 12 be put on the ballot for all of us," CCART12 said. ***(PR)***

Guam to discuss potential partial refuge closure

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's nonvoting delegate in Congress is moving to give the territory's community members a chance to weigh in on whether the Navy should close part of a wildlife refuge as part of a military buildup.

Pacific Daily News reported Thursday that Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) decided against attaching the proposed plan as an amendment to a larger defense spending bill, which passed a key House committee.

Closing part of the National Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian would make way for a safety zone for a military firing range for Marines.

Bordallo said she decided against attaching the plan to the spending bill after speaking with Gov. Eddie Calvo and other territorial lawmakers, as well as landowners near the refuge.

"I agree that our community should have the opportunity to discuss this issue and other concerns regarding the buildup," Bordallo said. She said the discussions would come during public meetings about how the buildup would affect the environment.

The refuge, which includes a former fishing camp used by Guam settlers about 3,000 years ago, is a key point for cultural tours for students and tourists.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says about 45,000 tourists and 12,000 school students visit the refuge each year. The proposal would limit access to the site about 75 percent of the year.

Calvo say he agrees with the plan and is worried that opposition to it would threaten economic opportunities for the island tied to the buildup.

"The military buildup will not happen without a firing range on Guam," Calvo said.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

General Maintenance Worker (4)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Housekeeper (2)
Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning of words and rules of composition. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: must pay close attention to details. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, May 16, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-031
Opening Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Closing Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Maintenance Worker

Duties: Under the respective division manager or his/her designee. Monitor building security and safety by performing such tasks as locking doors after opening hours and checking electrical appliance use to ensure that hazards are not created. Service, clean, or supply restrooms. Gather and empty trash. Clean building floors by sweeping, mopping, scrubbing, or vacuuming. Follow procedures for the use of chemical cleaners and power equipment to prevent damage to floors and fixtures. Mix water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions, according to specifications. Strip, seal, finish, and polish floors. Notify managers concerning the need for cleaning and maintenance supplies. Clean windows, glass partitions, or mirrors, using soapy water or other cleaners, sponges, or squeegees. Dust and polish all furnishings. Refill all toiletries and other restroom supplies. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $12,584.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High school diploma or GED or ABE. Knowledge of: proper operations and safety with air compressors, floor buffers or waxing machines, personnel lifting and/or climbing equipment, vacuum cleaners. Ability: Lift up to 70 pounds occasionally. Skills in: Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction and to receive work direction. License: Must already have a CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

Island Snapshots

MOTHER'S DAY TEXT-TO-WIN WINNERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, IT&E Product manager Veronica Acosta; IT&E Marketing coordinator Natashia Tomokane; Customer Service manager Janice Tenorio; IT&E promo winner Junieva P. Villarin; an additional IT&E promo winner, Deolina Selepeo (not in photo); IT&E Network Operations director Velma Ann Palacios; and IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson.

IT&E EMPLOYEE RAFFLE WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson; IT&E Marketing coordinator Natashia Tomokane; IT&E Employee Mother's Day raffle winner Allison Manglona, who is an IT&E universal services representative; IT&E Human Resources manager Shirley M. Dotts; and IT&E Product manager Veronica Acosta.

CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST

Proceeds from the Chili Cook-off contest at the Godfather's Beach Bar were donated to the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer. From left: Robert C. Harrell, IT&E Executive director of Customer Operations; Hans Mickelson, IT&E sales & marketing manager; Natashia Tomokane, IT&E marketing coordinator; Scott Dottino, co-owner of Godfather's Bar; and Bob Webb, general manager of KZMI Radio Station.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E, in collaboration with Godfather's Bar, hosts a Chili Cook-off contest at the Godfather's Beach Bar located at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. In this photo, Hans Mickelson, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager, right presents first place winner Julie Curry with her prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hans Mickelson, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager, right, presents second place winner Shawn and Chef Blake with their prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hans Mickelson, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager, right, presents third place winner Lillian Pangelinan with her prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MMAC TREATS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

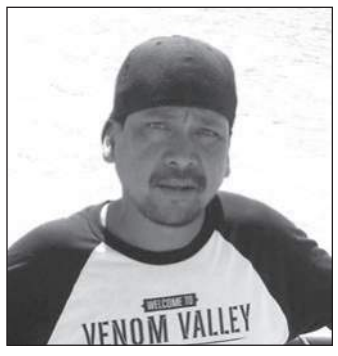
Team IT&E, in partnership with the Saipan Southern High School students, sell assorted flavors of milkshakes and shaved ice at the recent Marianas March Against Cancer.

The treats were a big hit with the crowd and were sold out before midnight. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ISLANDWIDE CLEANUP

Employees of McDonald's Saipan participate in the Islandwide Cleanup held on April 25, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to a awesome husband, dad, and grandpa, Capt. Roger Anthony Taitano! Thank you for the endless love and understanding. We're always here for you no matter what. May the Lord give you more blessings and birthdays in life. We love you forever. Hugs and kisses, your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHAMBER MEETING

IT&E chief executive officer John Compton is introduced at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Sand Castle on Wednesday, May 7.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, says, "We're excited to have John onboard and look forward to working under his leadership as we continue to excel in providing superior telecommunications services to the CNMI." From left, Amy Quito-Weiss, Business Accounts manager; Janice Tenorio, Customer Service manager; John Compton, chief executive officer; Hans Mickelson, Sales & Marketing manager; Velma Palacios, Network Operations director; and Natashia N. Tomokane, Marketing coordinator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blame rise of deadly superbugs on human folly

In September, the Centers for Disease Control sounded the alarm: Unless we stopped misusing and overusing antibiotics, they could become useless against disease-causing bacteria that are becoming resistant to them—evolving into so-called "superbugs."

We could find ourselves living in a "post-antibiotic" era, the CDC warned, one in which common infections and minor injuries could once again prove fatal because antibiotics are no longer effective.

Now the World Health Organization is saying that era is already here. Superbugs able to resist the most powerful antibiotics—drugs known as carbapenems—have been found all over the globe. And the problem is only getting worse.

One of the most common superbugs is MRSA, a staph infection that kills an estimated 19,000 Americans each year, mostly in hospitals and convalescent facilities. Many countries—including Canada, Great Britain, Japan and Australia—report they have patients with the dangerous sexually transmitted disease gonorrhea that is resistant to all available antibiotics. And more than half the patients in many countries can no longer be treated for E. coli, which can cause meningitis and infections of the blood and kidneys.

A Doctors Without Borders physician reports, "We see horrendous rates of antibiotic resistance wherever we look in our field operations."

It continues to be important for doctors to responsibly prescribe antibiotics; for patients to use them as intended; and to stop routine, low-dosage use of the drugs in the livestock and poultry industries. Lawmakers must give the Food and Drug Administration greater authority over use of antibiotics among farm animals. Currently, more than 70 percent of all antibiotics in the United States are given to farm animals, either to bulk them up faster or as a preventive measure in crowded, dirty conditions.

But the existing prevalence of superbugs suggests those steps alone aren't enough anymore. We'll need to take stronger measures to prevent infections in the first place, since it's become harder to treat them after the fact. And the world will need to invest in research to develop new medicines that will be more effective against bacteria resistant to what's available now.

That investment isn't lucrative to drug companies more interested in developing long-term maintenance medicines rather than ones that are taken for short periods of time. A federal Manhattan Project-style initiative might be called for in this case.

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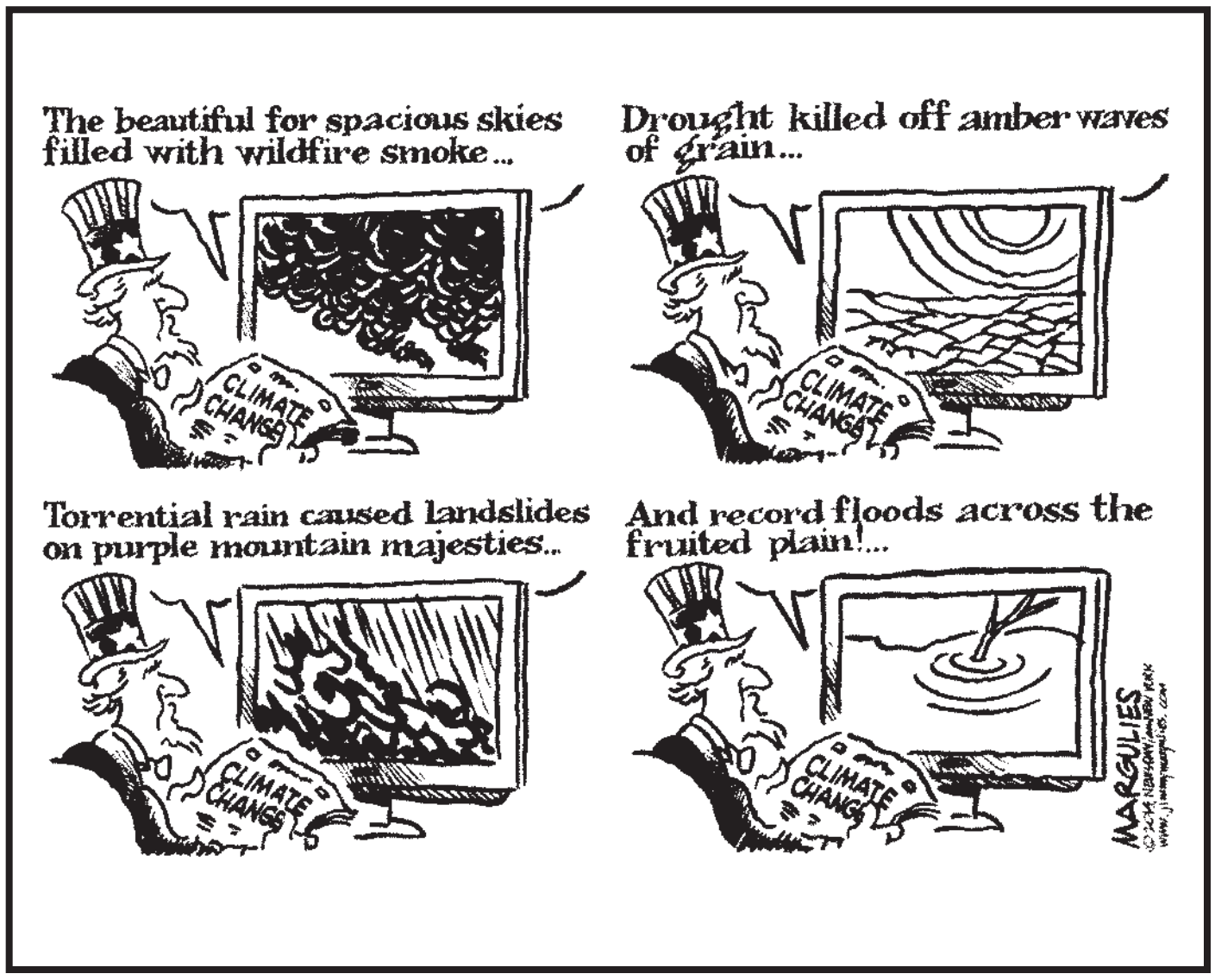

The beautiful for spacious skies filled with wildfire smoke...
CLIMATE CHANGE
Drought killed off amber waves of grain...
CLIMATE CHANGE
Torrential rain caused landslides on purple mountain majesties...
CLIMATE CHANGE
And record floods across the fruited plain!...
CLIMATE CHANGE
MARGULIES

Women for Warren

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I do not watch TV very often but I peeked at clips of the White House Correspondents' 60th anniversary dinner and LOL'd on the joke on Hillary Clinton being an attractive next President since we can pay her 30 percent less.

Michelle Obama, however, did one thing Hillary did not do while in the White House, and that is to deliver the presidential address on behalf of the President. Michelle before Mother's Day broke a barrier and spoke on behalf of the Nigerian school girls kidnapped in Africa.

Thailand's prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was deposed by a Constitutional Court's ruling for "abuse of power." The reason for the massive street protest by the "yellow" group led by former deputy minister and self-proclaimed General Secretary of the Democratic Reform Party, Suthep Thaugsuban, is Suthep's charge that Yingluck is a puppet of her brother, the military-deposed former prime minister Thaksin. Her "red" supporters, of the north and northwest quadrant, were subdued during her term, advised not to do anything while the "yellows" mouthed their diatribes, but that has changed as Yingluck is out of office, and Suthep desperately wants to be appointed PM without the benefit of election.

The Shinawatra "dynastic" reign began when upstart Thaksin became prime minister in 2001, the only PM to serve a full term without being kicked out for corruption, to return on a popular landslide until summarily deposed by the military in 2006. Charge? Corruption, of course! Thaksin and Suthep had been at loggerheads from the start. In 2011, Thaksin asked his younger sister Yingluck to lead the "upstart" party, subsequently becoming PM after she bested Suthep's party.

I am going to great lengths on this because it is clear from where I sit that Yingluck's luck ran out when she was reduced to being a female mouthpiece of her brother. The "corruption" charge on him is par for the course. Suthep, too, not only was accused of corruption while in public office, but also of murder for giving direct orders to shoot protesting "red" shirts while he was in office. The last three decades saw corruption judgments from the Constitutional Court against Thailand's politicos, the latest being on Yingluck, the luckless female in the bunch!

Park Geun-hye in Korea, daughter of the assassinated Korean president Park Chung-hee, has been subdued of late, grieving over the tragedy of the MV *Sewol* ferrying high school students to the island of Jeju. Though we applauded her ascension to her office as a female politician, the patriarchal Korean society makes her act more to out-guy the guys in public. She is refreshingly showing part of her feminine wiles in a guile-filled posture of submission and artfully gaining acceptance. Merkel of Germany, on the other hand, does not hesitate to arm wrestle *mano-o-mano* Putin on Ukraine!

"Women" in Chinese means "we," a rather collaborative, cooperative, and communal term. An old saying, revived by Mao Zedong, *"nu ren nong ding ban bian tian"* (Women hold half of the sky), emboldened Chinese females during the revolution. Many female entrepreneurs following Deng Xiao Ping's opening up and reform made bold moves, with a few, particularly in financial matters, taking their initiatives beyond the pale of the law.

But China still prefers its sons, with the current lopsided ratio of 54 males to 46 females in the under-30 population. Among my students at the university, snagging a boyfriend, however, remains a top priority, and management personnel in corporate offices are still dominated by the strutting cock! *(Khuy!* for Vladimir.)

The abduction of 284 girls in northern Nigeria that has the world in an outcry was due to the objection of rebels to their education. Malala of Afghanistan survived an assassination, an activist toward female education in "veiled" countries, a thorn in al-Qaeda's stomping out of the female specie from learning to read and write, and in a misuse of the name of Allah, would not have them have a mind of their own in public!

Matriarchy in the Marianas is well entrenched. A co-teacher refused to marry the father of her three children so that she can parcel out real estate along matriarchal lines. But on the whole, the reason we chuckle at the WH Correspondents' Dinner joke is that almost a century after the U.S. gave women the vote, they still have to try harder just to be at par with their male counterpart in almost every field with a long way to go. Michelle might have cracked the WH glass ceiling this Mother's Day.

I watched the Clintons while living in Washington, D.C. during their term in office. That was a conjugal presidency that the U.S. could not accommodate. We are due for a female President. Hillary and Bill might be watching their health to be an option. I see Hillary to be too divisive for a nation needing desperately to be healed. Elizabeth Warren, an Okie transplanted to the East Coast, fights hard but with a feminine touch. I hope she considers taking the plunge.

"We the People" can translate to *Women Renmin* in Zhonghua. Will get a T-shirt emblazoned with: *Women* for Warren.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Respetu gi disision iya Saipan

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

'Nai umentalu` Luta yan Tinian dumestrosia disision tautau Saipan pot casino, buente ti mahasñgon pot che`chu` pinalala gi hilu modun muron.

I konstitusion iya Marianas hana` illigat casino soluke mabota ni tautau taimanu masusede Tinian yan Luta.

I tautau Saipan ha ekspressia klaru haf` disposioña gi este na asuntu. Ti hu agradese umentalu` i senadot Tinian yan Luta ya maplacha`e ditetminasion tautau Saipan ni pot dos besis ha disapprueba casino. Debu u guaha respetu gi este sumen sentidu na asuntu.

Klaru na ti umentalu` Saipan `nai mabota gi dos islas para umana` halom industrian casino. Buente ti marepara na `nai maplacha`e asuntun Saipan kontodu siha mismu madestrosian maisa siha.

Yangin ti konfotme hau haf` disposision tautau Saipan, mauleg un` rikonose hafa na chupa un` sosopla sa` mampos natata kinemprendemu direchun sudadanu!

Estague` yuhe na uchan

Kulan mesgu` ñaihon lagohu `nai sige un` sumen na`mahalañg na sunidu madandan mientras hu gigimen i primet na pusuelon kafe un` oga`an.

I kanta ileglegña "Estague` Ayu Na Chata`an" i tiha nanañgga i prohimu. Umafagcha` yan `nai umadespide yan nobiaña. Gi bandaghu, umatotpe yan mana` hanau un` che`luhu para chagu na hospitat pot seriosu na chetnot.

Sige hu konsidera chetnot tautau-ta kontra i megai lokue` lumagnos siha ginen insurance hinemlo`. Haf` mohon para umasusede `an guaha fina` gotpe? Sin fondun familia `sino gobietnu siempre u fan nañgga. Makat na pinadese `nai seriosu mampos chetnot i malañgu.

Estague` un` probleman tautau-ta ni debi umasatba dibuenamente.

Para mona megai u fan hinegse seriosu na chetnot. Poresu na mauleg in` adahen maisa hamyu sa` esta hu pokate ennau na katsada. Mauleg na hu fa` hayuhu manayuyot diariu gi Saina ya ha pipetyu` lamayot patte gi karerahu.

Gi kada unu` siempre u fagcha`e lokue, "Estague` Ayu Na Chata`an".

Gi katsadan linala`ta

Yangin man-sinsiyu ma-esgaihon mona planun adelantu para i tautau, siempre fitme ginachuchuñge ennau ni sensian espirituat yan pinasensia gi asuntun linahyan.

Lastima sa` masede che`chu` hambienteria gi sumen natata na areglun casino. Seguruyu` na tat ti fufugun manog na ora lau tiempun maipe.

Mahasñgon man-lache gi hilu` trompison ti dinanche dimas mohon de u fan lache gi dinanche. Sotta ya siha u pinila` haf` sustansian i man-sañgan.

Mahasñgon ma-upus pattisipasion publiku kasi pot matuñgu` klaru na pot dos botasion i botadot Saipan ha punu` lai casino. Dispues, mafitma lai gi halom homhum! Dios mihu na insuttu gi intelihenten publiku!

Ke na ti magahet na todu ini`ina ni atdau siempre u paguan mana`na` malumot? Finu` i Chinu, "`An para un` fan hafot, pues guadog dos hoyu; unu para guiya, i otru para hagu". Lau ti u lache na i tatatte umasusede!

Siniñgon Hinimidde

Ha kone`yu` tatte haf` sensian hinimidde gi un` biha ni mafattu gi Ora Santa `an Dameñgo dispues de man-hanau todu i tautau. Tanoresyu` guihe na tiempu `nai hu soda` este na amku`.

Hana` fan ñgiñge`yu` dispues ilegña, "Chamu e`esun nu guahu laihu pot atrasasauyu`. Este ha` chininahu ni todu mancha yan kulot aplacha` ya tiyahu na u guaha masa` pot trahihu".

Ha pañgun sensian yinea`se giya guahu sa` kulan parehu pinadesen mame. Era, kada pueñgen Noche Buena (pot kuattru años na tiempu) kumu tanores, ni unu limi`e matiteg chininahu sa` tinatampe ni magagun tanores. I Saina tumampe tatalo` mame gi bespiran kompliañosña. Ha komprende haf` fina`pos famaguon mamoble.

Man-hanau ham dispues para i gima` man-na`lagu kafe ya inna` chineneg sinetnen suni yan kamute antes de bai` fan deskansa. Tatfoi i didog na pineble lau ni unu maribaha minagofña gi selebrasion Noche Buena!

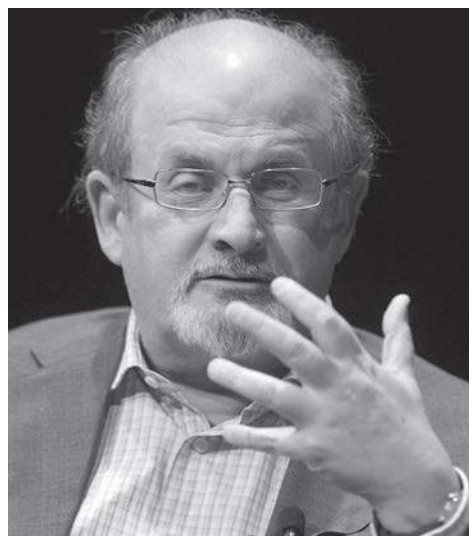
■■■

Tat katsada gi linala` poble tihu pokate. Estague` na taduñg halom tanu` diariu hu faposgue. Para todu mattiru, ti mañakeyu` pot para u fañaluda ni tihoñg i otru. Man-magof ham gi hilu` guinahan un` poblen guma`. Mit grasias para i mañainan mame ni kumonduse mona ha`anen mame gi halom sumen didog na chinatsaga.

I para u kuentos pot pineble, chinatsaga yan diskriminasion, na ali`e` ham ya guahu bai` leksiona ennau na prohimuhu. Ginen ennauyu` mage na katsada ya tat inetnon basula yan aplacha` tihu `rempua.

Magahet lokue` na ni unabes `nai hu ñega sumañgan haf` direchoghu ya mauleg na gaige i sinantusan na nanahu ni umataha listun sikoshu. Gi hilu` pinasensian, hinimidde yan esperansa `nai siempre un` soda` ginefsagamu. Kasse hagas hayuhu respondot sa` makat unna` famatkiluyu` gi direchoghu. Dispues haf` siña muna` atlibes i minagahet? Si Iku.

25 years after the Salman Rushdie fatwa, how is free expression faring?



ABACA PRESS/MCT
Writer Salman Rushdie discusses his autobiography titled, "Joseph Anton: A Memoir" during a forum Monday, October 8, 2012, at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

By TIMOTHY GARTON ASH
Los Angeles Times

Timothy Garton Ash is writing a book about free speech and directs the 13-language website freespeechdebate.com. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Twenty-five years ago, in 1989, four big things happened that still shape our world. The Berlin Wall came down, and with it the empire that Vladimir Putin would love to restore. The Tiananmen Square massacre launched China on a new trajectory, which has made it what it is today. A then little-known British scientist named Tim Berners-Lee invented what would become the World Wide Web. And Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini delivered his fatwa on Salman Rushdie.

On May 4, I sat down with Rushdie in New York, at the American PEN World Voices Festival, to discuss the consequences of those events for freedom of expression around the world. How had he experienced the velvet revolutions of 1989, and where had he been when the Berlin Wall came down? He could not exactly remember—some safe house, presumably—but he confessed to having felt a tinge of envy at watching others, including Nelson Mandela a few years later, walking to freedom while he was still in durance vile.

There is no hint of that now, and the current normality of one writer's life, which for so long seemed an unattainable dream, is a victory. The larger question is whether the struggle for free speech against fanatics and oppressors of all kinds is moving in the right or wrong direction.

In Britain, and in Europe more generally, a majority of Muslims accept the basic rules of peaceful coexistence in a liberal pluralist society. Yet in 1989, while some of his co-religionists were burning copies of "The Satanic Verses," a British Muslim called Iqbal Sacranie said that death might be "a bit too easy" for Rushdie.

One small symptom of this improvement was the mildness of most British Muslim reactions to the 2007 award of a knighthood to the controversial novelist. (Rushdie recalls that after tapping him with the sword of honor, the queen asked, "Are you still writing books?") But then Her Majesty—or rather, Prime Minister Tony Blair through her—had also knighted Sacranie two years earlier. A very British solution: Give 'em both a knighthood.

The serious point stands: In many Western countries, the overall evolution among the great majority of Muslims has been toward an acceptance of, and even an active support for, freedom of expression, which necessarily includes the right (though not a duty) to offend.

On the other hand, Rushdie argued—and research supports this view—that a small minority in European Muslim communities is still being dangerously radicalized. And self-censorship out of fear keeps gnawing away at the edges of Western cultural life. The satirical musical "The Book of Mormon" continues to delight audiences in New York and London. No one seems to be planning another called "The Book of Muhammad."

In many majority Muslim states, the constraints on freedom of expression remain horrendous. Saudi Arabia has this year issued new laws that treat atheists as being on a par with terrorists. The New York Times recently carried a report about Alexander Aan, imprisoned in Indonesia on a charge of inciting religious hatred. His crime? Declaring himself online to be an atheist.

Intimidation is by no means a Muslim monopoly. In Rushdie's native India, Hindu extremists are the tops at taking offense. The publisher Penguin India recently withdrew American scholar Wendy Doniger's alternative history of the Hindus, under pressure from a Hindu protest group. The situation seems likely to get worse if Narendra Modi wins India's still-unfolding parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, across the border in Burma, it is people who describe themselves as Buddhists who have been lynching Muslim Rohingya.

In China, the post-1989 system has produced what will soon be the world's largest economy and what is already its largest censorship apparatus. One reason the apparatus is so vast is that there is simply much more speech to be monitored because of the Internet. WeChat, the Chinese mobile messaging system, has well over 300 million users. The winner of American PEN's first Digital Freedom Award, Twitter CEO Dick Costolo, noted that the site hosts more than 500 million tweets a day.

This is a huge quantitative gain for free speech, but it brings its own dangers. It is not just authoritarian regimes that abuse the Internet as a tool for mass surveillance. A PEN survey of American writers found them not only worried about the NSA surveillance revealed by Edward Snowden but also, in some cases, confessing to self-censorship as a result. In other words, it has had a chilling effect.

"As to the battle over 'The Satanic Verses,' " Rushdie wrote in his memoir, "Joseph Anton," published in 2012, "it was still hard to say if it was ending in victory or defeat." The same may be said of the consequences of all those four giant events of 1989. But that is the way with the battle for free speech—never entirely lost, never conclusively won.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hey, Marianas Visitors Authority, it's 2014

I went to the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday night. Well done! Nice booths, great food and drinks, lots of friendly, happy people. I saw people from at least 10 different countries, from near and far, but guess what, folks, some of us couldn't eat or drink because the MVA doesn't take cards. It's 2014 and you can swipe cards on a cell phone or tablet. It's not new; it's been here for years.

Another thing, now that you have more money coming into your coffers, instead of hiring more paper shufflers, how about fixing the 365 non-working lights, 11 benches without seats and backs, five railings, and one bridge on the "tourist friendly" Beach Road Pathway. You might tell the grass cutters to clean up the clippings instead of leaving them on the walkway too. If the Beach Road Pathway isn't your responsibility, take it away from whoever has it and do it yourself; it makes you look bad.

Marpi looks great; Garapan looks like a 4th World destination. After 35 years we should at least have sidewalks, street lights, zoning regulations for construction, trash and visible storage areas, a pleasant paint scheme for the Paseo de Marianas, and make absentee owners keep those stairwells clean and neat, and clear signs for our, and your, bread and butter, which is our tourists.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

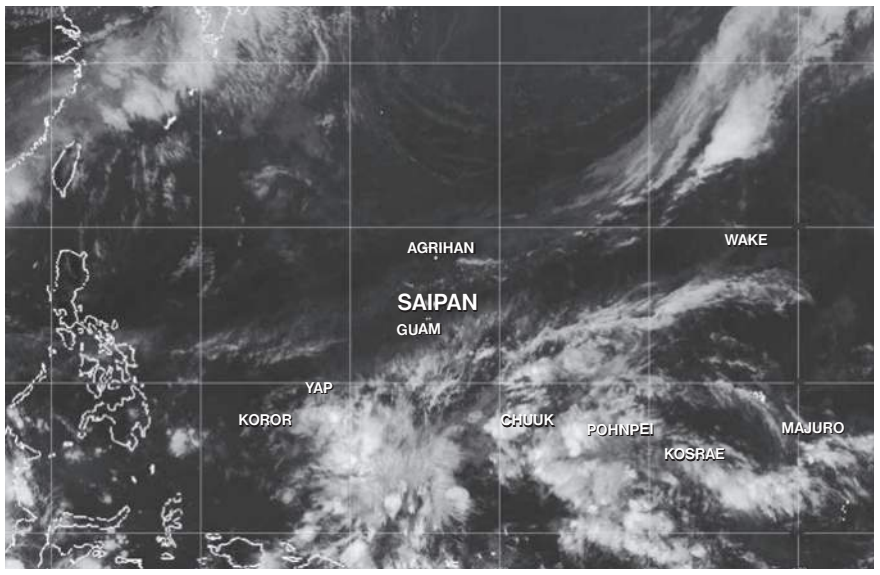
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼48
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼69
London	Showers	▲62	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲96	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲94	▼80
Melbourne	Sunny	▲69	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
New York	Showers	▲66	▼54
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Paris	Thundershowers	▲61	▼43
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼57
Rome	Rain	▲67	▼52
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼53
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81	▼61
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼53
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima near 25N164E to 19N157E then continues as a shear line across the northern CNMI to end near 19N138E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 230 miles northwest of the front. Isolated thunderstorms are present ahead of the front north of Wake Island within 70 miles of a line from 22N161E to 25N165E. Cloudiness and patchy showers exist up to 190 miles northwest of the shear line. A series of trade-wind disturbances are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from east of Koror across southern Yap state to Chuuk and Pohnpei south of a line from 8N136E to 12N156E to 5N161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Kosrae to south of Majuro eastward to beyond the date line within 100 miles of a line from 5N163E to 3N167E to 6N176E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
6:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
8:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:12 PM	4:20 AM
Wednesday	6:09 PM	5:07 AM
Thursday	7:08 PM	5:58 AM
Friday	8:07 PM	6:53 AM
Saturday	9:06 PM	7:51 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
			via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
			via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7
			via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
			via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7
			via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
			via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via
			GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
			via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
			via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
			via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6
			via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Fed govt failed to inspect higher risk oil wells

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government has failed to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells it considers potentially high risks for water contamination and other environmental damage, congressional investigators say.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press before its public release, highlights substantial gaps in oversight by the agency that manages oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands.

Investigators said weak control by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management resulted from policies based on outdated science and from incomplete monitoring data.

The findings from the Government Accountability Office come amid an energy boom in the country and the increasing use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. That process involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rocks to allow oil and gas to flow. It has produced major economic benefits, but also raised fears that the chemicals could spread to water supplies.

The audit also said the BLM did not coordinate effectively with state regulators in New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah.

The bureau has become a symbol of federal overreach to industry groups opposed to government regulations related to oil and gas drilling. Environmental groups say the Obama administration needs to do more to guard against environmental damage.

AP

In this March 21, 2012, file photo, with oil pump jacks as a backdrop, President Barack Obama speaks at an oil and gas field on federal lands in Maljamar, N.M.

In the coming months, the administration is expected to issue rules on fracking and methane gas emissions.

The report said the agency "cannot accurately and efficiently identify whether federal and Indian resources are properly protected or that federal and Indian resources are at risk of being extracted without agency approval."

In response to the report, Tommy Beaudreau, a principal deputy assistant interior secretary, wrote that he generally agreed with the recommendations for improved state coordination and updated regulations.

The report makes clear in many instances that the BLM's failure to inspect high-priority oil and gas wells is due to limited money and staff. BLM officials said they were in the process of updating several of its policies later this year.

Investigators reviewed 14 states in full or part: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. In Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere, fracking has become increasingly prevalent.

The report said the BLM had failed to conduct inspections on more than 2,100 of the 3,702 wells that it had specified as "high priority" and drilled from 2009 through 2012. The agency considers a well "high priority" based on a greater need to protect against possible water contamination and other environmental safety issues.

The agency had yet to indicate whether another 1,784 wells were high priority or not.

The BLM has developed agreements with some states, which also have jurisdiction over well inspections on federal lands. According to the GAO, it had reached agreements with regulators in California, Colorado, Nevada and Wyoming.

The report said BLM has not reviewed or updated many of its oil and gas rules to reflect technological advances, as required by a 2011 executive order. They include guidance on spacing of wells, which the report said could help maximize oil and gas production.

The bureau acknowledged it had not updated its guidance on oil and gas drainage since 1999 or its guidance on mineral trespass—interference of drilling or mining activity—since 2003.

Congressional investigators found the BLM did not monitor inspection activities at its state and field offices and thus could not provide "reasonable assurance" that those offices were completing the required inspections.

In Pennsylvania, for instance, an Associated Press investigation found the state received 398 complaints in 2013 alleging that oil or natural gas drilling polluted or otherwise affected private water wells. More than 100 cases of pollution were confirmed over the past five years.

Samsung chairman hospitalized after heart attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Kun-hee remained hospitalized in stable condition Monday after being treated for a heart attack, company officials said.

Lee, 72, was rushed to a hospital near his Seoul home late Saturday after suffering breathing problems and received CPR due to symptoms of a heart attack. He was later transferred to a Samsung-affiliated hospital in Seoul, Samsung Medical Center, where he underwent a stent placement procedure early Sunday in which tubes were inserted into his body to widen blood vessels to prevent a heart attack, according to Keich Lee, a spokeswoman at Samsung Global Communications.

The Samsung Group said in a statement Sunday that Lee "is in stable condition and making a recovery."

The Samsung spokeswoman said Monday that Lee's spontaneous breathing returned shortly after the operation and hospital officials expect good results. She said Lee remained hospitalized Monday.

Lee

Lee, the de facto chairman of Samsung Group, which is South Korea's largest conglomerate, has a history of medical problems. He has been suffering from respiratory complications since undergoing lung surgery in the late 1990s, and was hospitalized last August for treatment of pneumonia. He returned to Seoul in April after spending the winter season in the U.S. to prevent respiratory ailments.

Lee is also a high-ranking South Korean member of the International Olympic Committee.

Samsung Electronics Co. has a top-heavy command structure that centers on the founding family. Lee Kun-hee is the third son of Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull and was tapped in 1979 by his father to lead what would become South Korea's most valuable company—a global leader in smartphones, TVs, household appliances and home entertainment systems. The conglomerate also owns businesses in life insurance, hotel, construction, shipbuilding, chemical industry, fashion, credit card and other areas.

The company's business operations are run by three CEOs, though Lee Kun-hee as the head of the flagship electronics division wields significant control over the company's direction.

The Samsung Group has recently been carrying out a broad range of mergers and reorganizations in what analysts say are preparations for handing over the reins to Lee's three children—a son and two daughters.

Shares of Samsung Electronics Co. rose 1.4 percent in Seoul on Monday.

Lure of London makes Britain a billionaire haven

LONDON (AP)—A new study of the super-rich finds that London has become the capital of the world's wealthiest, with more billionaires than any other city.

The Sunday Times, which published the list, says London has 72 residents whose fortunes exceed 1 billion pounds ($1.6 billion). That's well ahead of Moscow, at 48, New York, at 43, San Francisco at 42, Los Angeles at 38 or Hong Kong at 34.

The newspaper reports that Britain also has more billionaires per head than any other country, with one in billionaire for every 607,000 Britons versus one for every 1 million or so Americans.

The newspaper has long published an annual list of the Britain's richest people, but this was the first time it took the additional step of seeing how the country's overall standing compared to that of other countries.

Indian-born brothers Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja top the British list, with a 11.9-billion pound fortune. The two run the Hinduja Group, a global conglomerate.

The brothers replace last year's richest man, Alisher Usmanov, who has seen his fortune drop by 2.65 billion pounds to 10.65 billion—largely because of the decline of the ruble.

Other notables on the list are steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal, in third place, and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich, who dropped from fifth to ninth.

Boss blind to underling's incompetence

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

QUESTION: One of my employees is an incompetent drama queen. "Lindsey" makes more serious errors than anyone I have ever supervised. It can take hours to correct some of her mistakes. On top of that, she plays such childish emotional games with her co-workers that two of them have threatened to quit.

This is a family-owned business, and Lindsey has somehow managed to convince the family that she is a wonderful employee. If I mention any performance issues, she immediately runs to the owner and tells him that I'm treating her unfairly. Once she even called his mother to complain about me.

I would like to terminate Lindsey's employment, but the owner will never agree to that. This situation has become so frustrating that I have begun looking for another job, despite the fact that I love working here. Should I keep trying to fix this problem or just continue my career elsewhere?

ANSWER: Before deciding to jump ship, make one more attempt to get your boss's attention. Simply describing Lindsey as careless and disagreeable will not be sufficient, because that contradicts his firsthand experience. Since she always acts angelic in his presence, you must clearly demonstrate what happens when he's not around.

Start by carefully documenting Lindsey's errors over an extended period, showing exactly how these mistakes have wasted time and money or harmed customer perceptions. Arrange for her unhappy co-workers to discuss their concerns with the owner. Once you have proven that a problem exists, you can then recommend a reasonable solution.

Instead of requesting immediate termination, suggest that Lindsey be given a performance improvement plan. Draft some remedial action steps and review them with your boss, then request that he join you in discussing the plan with Lindsey. His participation is important, because you need to maintain a united front.

If the owner seems willing to participate in this process, that's an encouraging sign. But if he takes Lindsey's side or offers only tepid support, odds are that you will never be allowed to truly function as a manager in this parochial company.

Q: Six years ago, I left the business where I had worked for 23 years because I just couldn't take it anymore. I held a highly paid position at the time, but I would feel lucky to make half as much now.

During job interviews, I'm not sure what to say if I'm asked about my previous salary. Interviewers probably think I was crazy to leave such a high-paying job, so how do I assure them that a lower salary would be perfectly acceptable?

A: Given your six-year employment gap, most interviewers will assume that you have learned to survive without a hefty paycheck. Their greater concern is likely to be your motivation to work. If you can convince them of your eagerness to rejoin the workforce and your ability to make a meaningful contribution, they should have no trouble accepting your downsized salary requirements.

Nation

Police add texting to crisis negotiation arsenal

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In a May 6, 2014 photo, Sgt. Andres Wells of the Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety, who successfully used text messaging to negotiate with a suicidal robbery suspect during a 2011 standoff, stands next to his armored vehicle.

The suspect in a gas station robbery and 100 mph chase kept pointing his handgun to his head, and police negotiator Andres Wells was doing all he could to keep the man from committing suicide. But he kept cutting Wells' phone calls short.

Then, about 10 minutes after the last hang up, Wells' cellphone chimed. It was a text—from the suspect.

"Please call Amie," the message said, followed by the number of the man's girlfriend.

Wells was taken aback. In three years as a negotiator with the Kalamazoo, Michigan, police, he'd always relied on spoken give-and-take, taking cues from a person's tone of voice, the inflections, emotions. He'd never thought about negotiating via text.

"It had never even been brought up at one of our training," Wells recalled of the 2011 case.

With 6 billion text messages exchanged daily in the U.S. alone, law enforcement officers are increasingly being called upon to defuse violent, unpredictable situations through the typed word. Experts say it's happened enough in the last five years to warrant new, specialized training.

But in Wells' case, he had to adapt on the fly.

"What do you want me to tell her?" he texted back.

"The truth," suspect Jesse Cook wrote.

While Wells ordinarily would rely on a skill called "active listening," he couldn't hear Cook's voice. Cook couldn't hear his. Was he yelling? Crying?

"It's not the preferred method of communication in a crisis, but if it's the only way that we have, then we'll engage," said New York State Police spokeswoman Darcy Wells.

Outside Buffalo, New York, in March, a suspect who'd shot at Erie County Sheriff's deputies responding to a domestic call was carrying on text exchanges with several relatives when law enforcement negotiators got involved in the electronic conversations, eventually persuading him to surrender.

"He didn't want to talk as much as he wanted to text," Sheriff's Capt. Gregory Savage said. "It wasn't part of the training I got when I went through the crisis negotiator school put on by the FBI, but it's something that they are incorporating into any new training."

Red Bank, Tennessee, Police Chief Tim Christol includes texting in his sessions and has published articles on the topic.

Besides adrenaline rendering negotiators all thumbs on a miniature keypad, Christol said, many of the typical skills officers employ to get people talking don't always translate, things like emotional labeling—telling someone "I hear sadness" or "You sound angry."

"We're losing those verbal cues that we want to listen to to help us decide where this person is—if they're manic at the time, if they're in a state of depression," Christol said. "Words are only 7 percent of communication."

In Kalamazoo, Wells used Cook's text about telling his girlfriend the truth as a way to show empathy and build trust. He texted that he understood the unemployed veteran was trying to provide for his girlfriend and daughter when he robbed the gas station.

There was no response.

A minute later, Wells typed again, determined to keep the communication going.

"This doesn't have to go down like this."

Again, nothing.

"Do you need anything? Water? Food?" Wells tried after another minute.

Finally, a reply.

"Water," Cook wrote.

"As soon as he wrote water, I thought, `OK, I can work with this,'" Wells recalled later. "We'll get something figured out."

Wells asked Cook to roll down his window so an officer could toss a bottle of water into his SUV, which was disabled by tire-popping spikes laid by police.

"This guy throws like a girl," Wells texted, fishing for Cook's state of mind.

"Thanks. He does throw like a girl," Cook wrote afterward.

Then a smiley face.

It was the cue Wells had been waiting for, proof Cook had relaxed enough to perhaps resume talking by phone, which had been the goal all along.

Looking back, Wells said having someone's responses in text form could be beneficial during negotiations, providing a chance to show them to a relative or another negotiator for guidance.

But the negatives, including the potential to be misunderstood and absence of emotion and real-time give-and-take, outweigh the benefits, he said.

"Can I call u?" Wells then asked Cook.

"OK," Cook replied. He surrendered 15 minutes later.

3rd body found in fiery US hot air balloon crash

DOSWELL, Virginia (AP)—Searchers on Sunday found the body of the third victim from the crash of a hot air balloon that drifted into a power line, burst into flames and fell into a heavily wooded area in Virginia, police said.

Police have not released the victims' names, but family members and the University of Richmond said associate head coach Ginny Doyle and director of basketball operations Natalie Lewis were passengers on the balloon that crashed Friday.

Donald Kirk on Sunday said his son, Daniel T. Kirk, was piloting the balloon.

The website of Daniel T. Kirk's company says he had more than 20 years' experience as a hot air balloon pilot. The Starship Adventures site also said Kirk had a commercial balloon pilot license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Steve Hoffmann, who said he built the Eagle balloon that Kirk was piloting and taught him to fly, called Kirk "one of the nicest guys in the world" and a consummate professional.

"He was very careful," Hoffmann said. "Something definitely went wrong. This is not the kind of flying Dan would do."

Witnesses to the crash described a harrowing sight on the special preview night for the Mid-Atlantic Balloon Festival, which was set to open Saturday. The festival was canceled. About 740 people attended the preview event.

AP
This combination made with photos provided by the University of Richmond shows associate head coach Ginny Doyle, left, and director of basketball operations Natalie Lewis.

The balloon was among 13 that lifted off Friday night and was approaching a landing site nearby. Two of the balloons landed safely before the third hit the live power line, according to police.

The pilot attempted to retain control of the balloon and snuff the fire and two passengers either jumped or fell from the gondola, state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said.

She said another pilot interviewed by investigators described how the pilot tried to open vents to release extra-hot air in an attempt to keep the balloon from rising faster.

"Based on witness accounts, he did everything he could to try to save the passengers' lives," Geller said.

The National Transportation Safety Board is also investigating the crash.

Troy Bradley, past president of the Balloon Federation of America, said most serious accidents on balloons—including fires, electrocution or baskets becoming severed—happen after hitting power lines. Most of the time it's due to pilot error, he said.

Arkansas plans to appeal same-sex marriage ruling

EUREKA SPRINGS, Arkansas (AP)—The state's top lawyer will ask the Arkansas Supreme Court to review a lower court's decision to overturn a 2004 constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Attorney General Dustin McDaniel announced his intent to appeal to the high court late Saturday night, but not before 15 licenses were issued for same-sex couples in northwest Arkansas' Carroll County, heralding the arrival of gay marriage in the Bible Belt in the U.S. South.

"Thank God," Jennifer Rambo said after Carroll County Deputy Clerk Jane Osborn issued a marriage license to her and Kristin Seaton, a former volleyball player at the University of Arkansas. The Fort Smith couple had traveled overnight to ensure they'd be first in line, and wed moments later on a sidewalk near the courthouse.

Carroll County was believed to be the only county that issued marriage licenses Saturday. Several courthouses were open for early primary-election voting but staffers said they were not prepared to issue marriage licenses.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza paved the way for the marriages Friday with a ruling that removed a 10-year-old barrier, saying a constitutional amendment overwhelmingly passed by Arkansas voters in 2004 banning gay marriage was "an unconstitutional attempt to narrow the definition of equality." Piazza's ruling also overturned a 1997 state law banning gay marriage.

McDaniel has asked Piazza to suspend his ruling, but also formally said late Saturday he wants the state Supreme Court to take up the matter. That appeal has not yet been filed.

But because Piazza didn't issue a stay, Arkansas' 75 county clerks were left to decide for themselves whether to grant marriage licenses. That caused confusion among county clerks, Association of Arkansas Counties executive director Chris Villines said.

ACROSS THE NATION

US man reaches halfway in trans-Atlantic row bid

NEW YORK (AP)—An American rower hoping to cross the Atlantic Ocean in honor of his brother has passed the halfway mark. A spokeswoman for 48-year-old Victor Mooney said early Sunday the specially built oceangoing rowboat had done more than half the 3,000-mile (4,800-kilometer) journey from the African coast to the British Virgin Islands. Mooney set off Feb. 19 in a 24-foot (7.2-meter) boat from Maspolamas, Gran Canaria. His journey is being done in honor of a brother who died of AIDS in 1983. Mooney is hoping to encourage voluntary HIV testing. Mooney has tried the same feat three other times, without success. He hopes to resupply in the British Virgin Islands then row back to New York. Successful crossings happen annually, according to statistics kept by The Ocean Rowing Society.

Rare 'mono mono' newborn twins doing well in US

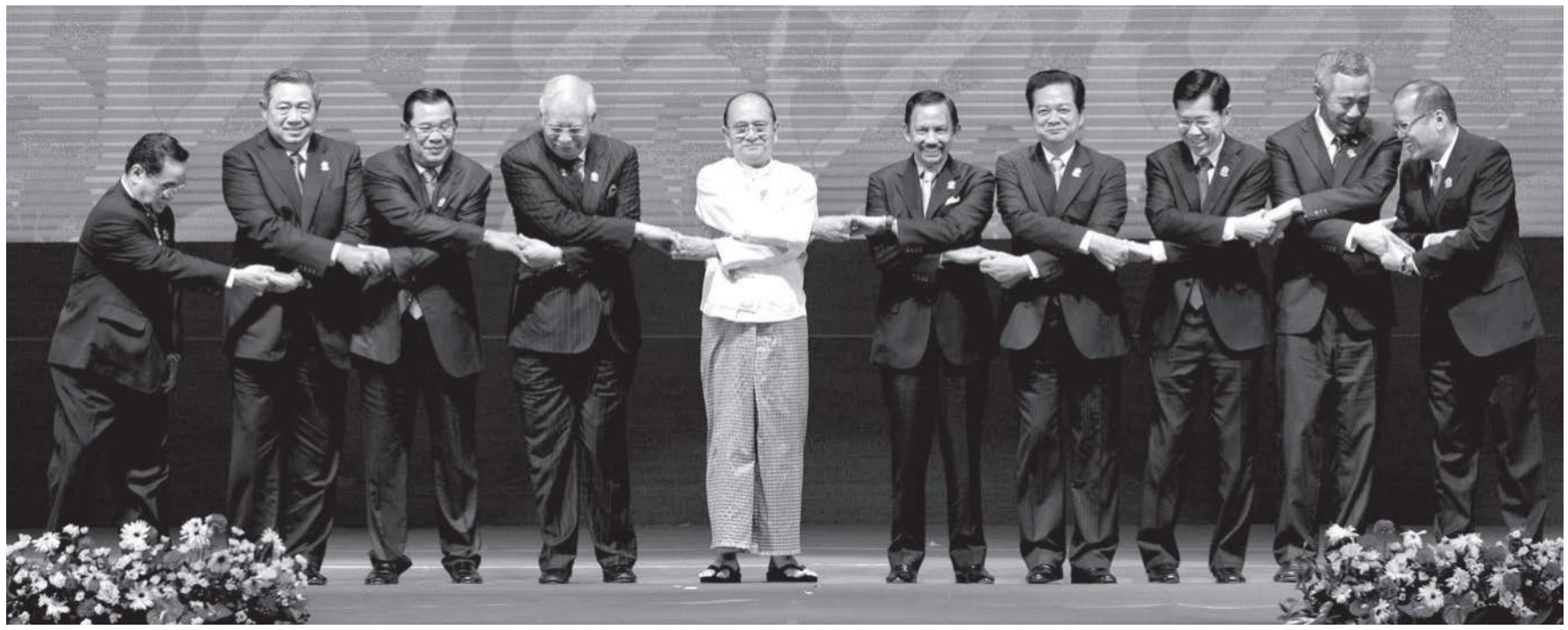
AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Twin girls born with a rare condition in the U.S. were breathing on their own, and their mom said she and her husband were able to hold them on Mother's Day. Sarah Thistlethwaite said babies Jillian and Jenna were removed from ventilators Sunday after they were able to breathe comfortably. "It's just hard to put into words how amazing it feels to know the girls are OK," she told The Associated Press. The identical twin girls shared the same amniotic sac and placenta. Such births are called monoamniotic, or "mono mono," and doctors say they occur in about one of every 10,000 pregnancies. They were born Friday in Ohio, grasping each other's hands when doctors lifted them up for their parents to see after delivery.

Asia

China tensions top Southeast Asian summit talks

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar (AP)—Vietnam and the Philippines pushed for stronger action to confront China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea at a Southeast Asian summit Sunday that was hosted for the first time by Myanmar, a former pariah state now eager to show off its fragile democratic reforms.

A showdown between Chinese and Vietnamese ships near the Paracel Islands has put a spotlight on long-standing and bitter maritime disputes. The stakes are high, with Beijing claiming sovereignty over much of the strategically important waters—among the world's busiest transport lanes and believed to contain significant oil and gas reserves.



AP

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations pose for a photograph during the opening ceremony of the 24th ASEAN leaders Summit in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Sunday, May 11 2014. Leaders from left are, Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Myanmar President Thein Sein, Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah, Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Pongthep Thepkanjana, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III.

Several members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations reject China's claims, saying parts of the sea are theirs. But few are willing to risk their economic and political ties with the regional powerhouse.

A statement released by Southeast Asian leaders at the close of Sunday's meeting expressed concern and called for restraint by all parties involved in the maritime disputes, but made no direct mention of China.

Vietnam and the Philippines made it clear from the start that they wanted more.

"China has brazenly moved its deep-water drilling rig escorted by over 80 armed and military vessels and many airplanes to the Vietnamese waters," Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung was quoted as saying. The vessels "fired high-powered water cannons and rammed straight into the Vietnamese public-service and civil ships, causing damage to many ships and injuring many people on board."

The standoff between China and Vietnam started May 1, when China moved a deep sea oil rig into waters close to the Paracel Islands in what most analysts believe was an especially assertive move to help cement its claims of sovereignty over the area. Vietnam, which says the islands belong to it, immediately dispatched ships.

China insists it is doing nothing wrong and said Thursday that it had "maintained a lot of restraint" in the face of "intensive provocations" by Vietnam that were endangering its personnel and property.

Vietnam says the security and free navigation of the strategic waterway are now under serious threat.

The United States has criticized China's latest action as provocative and unhelpful.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying responded by saying that the issue should not concern ASEAN and that Beijing was opposed to "one or two countries' attempts to use the South Sea issue to harm the overall friendship and cooperation between China and ASEAN," according to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Lawyer quits case of Pakistan doctor who aided CIA

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The lawyer for the Pakistani doctor who helped the U.S. find Osama bin Laden said Sunday he wouldn't represent him any longer after facing threats from militants, even as America pushes for the man to be freed. Lawyer Samiullah Khan Afridi said he made the decision after he received what he described as a "final" warning from militants. Afridi said he represented Dr. Shakil Afridi on humanitarian grounds, but said it is now not possible for him to continue. The two Afridis are not related. "Now they have warned me to either quit the case or be ready to face the dire consequences," Afridi told The Associated Press. "My family and I are under severe threat."

Indians vote in final phase of national elections

NEW DELHI (AP)—Millions of Indian voters in the world's biggest democracy are wrapping up a mammoth national election with the final day of polling in three states. With 814 million eligible voters, India has been voting in phases over six weeks, with results expected on Friday. The main Hindu opposition Bharatiya Janata Party went into the election with strong momentum on promises of economic growth. Early polls suggest there is deep dissatisfaction with the governing Congress party's 10 years in power. Thousands lined up to vote Monday in the revered Hindu holy city of Varanasi, where Narendra Modi, the main BJP candidate for Indian prime minister, is seeking election. He is locked in a battle with Arvind Kejriwal, the chief of India's anti-corruption party, and Ajay Rai of the Congress party.

Vietnam allows anti-China protest over oilrig

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam allowed several hundred demonstrators to stage a noisy rally outside the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi on Sunday against Beijing's deployment of an oilrig in the contested South China Sea that has triggered a tense standoff and raised fears of confrontation.

The country's authoritarian leaders keep a very tight grip on public gatherings for fear they could attract anti-government protesters.

This time, they appeared to give in to public anger that also provided them with the opportunity to register their own indignation at Beijing.

Other protests, including one drawing more than 1,000 people in Ho Chi Minh City, took place in other locations around the country. For the first time, they were reported on enthusiastically by the state media.

The government has in the past forcibly broken up anti-China protests and arrested their leaders, many of whom are also campaigning for greater political freedoms and human rights.

"We are infuriated by the Chinese actions," said Nguyen Xuan Hien, a lawyer who printed his own placard reading "Get Real. Imperialism is so 19th century."

"We have come to so that the Chinese people can understand our anger," he said.

Vietnam's government immediately protested the deployment of the oilrig on May 1, and dispatched a flotilla that was unable to break through a circle of more than 50 Chinese vessels protecting the facility. The Vietnamese coast guard released video of Chinese vessels ramming and firing water cannons at Vietnamese ships.

The latest confrontation in the disputed Paracel Islands, which China occupied from U.S.-backed South Vietnam in 1974, has raised fears that tensions could escalate. Vietnam says the islands fall within its continental shelf and a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone. China claims sovereignty over the area and most of the South China Sea—a position that has brought Beijing in confrontation with other claimants, including the Philippines and Malaysia.

The protest Sunday was the largest since 2011, when a Chinese vessel cut seismic survey cables leading to a Vietnamese oil exploration ship. Vietnam sanctioned protests for a few weeks, but then broke them up after they became a forum of anti-government sentiment.

In the past, journalists covering protests had been harassed and sometimes beaten and protesters bundled into vans.

It was a different scene Sunday in a park across the road from the Chinese mission, where speakers atop police vans were broadcasting accusations that China's actions violated the country's sovereignty, state television was on hand to record the event and men were handing out banners saying "We entirely trust the party, the government and the people's army."

While some demonstrators were clearly linked to the state, many others were ordinary Vietnamese outraged by China's actions. Some activists chose to stay away because of the state's involvement or implicit sanction of the event, according to online postings by dissident groups, but others showed up.

The United States has criticized China's oilrig deployment as provocative and unhelpful. Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations who gathered Saturday in Myanmar ahead of Sunday's summit issued a statement expressing concern and urging restraint by all parties.

President tells China to get used to slower growth

BEIJING (AP)—China's president has told the country to get used to slower growth, damping expectations of a new stimulus.

President Xi Jinping's weekend comments come amid weakening trade and manufacturing. Economic growth slowed in the latest quarter to 7.4 percent after last year's full-year expansion of 7.7 percent tied 2012 for the weakest performance since 1999.

"We must boost our confidence, adapt to the new normal condition based on the characteristics of China's economic growth in the current phase and stay cool-minded," Xi said, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The ruling Communist Party is trying to steer the economy to self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption instead of trade and investment.

Other leaders have ruled out more stimulus, but unexpectedly weak demand for Chinese exports has forced Beijing to backtrack and launch mini-stimulus efforts last year and in March. Official plans call for annual trade growth of 7.5 percent but so far this year total imports and exports are down by 0.5 percent.

Analysts say the ruling party appears willing to accept economic growth below its 7.5 percent target this year so long as the rate of creation of new jobs stays high enough to avoid political tensions.

Speaking during a visit to the central province of Henan, Xi said Saturday the government will focus on longer-term reforms aimed at stabilizing growth.

China needs to prevent risks and "take timely countermeasures to reduce potential negative effects," Xi said. He said Beijing will focus on longer-term reforms aimed at stabilizing growth.

"This is the clearest sign I have seen that a broad-base monetary stimulus to elevate that current slowdown will not eventuate," said Evan Lucas of IG Markets in a report.

World

Nigeria refused help to search for kidnapped girls

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—The president of Nigeria for weeks refused international help to search for more than 300 girls abducted from a school by Islamic extremists, one in a series of missteps that have led to growing international outrage against the government.

The United Kingdom, Nigeria's former colonizer, first said it was ready to help in a news release the day after the mass abduction on April 15, and made a formal offer of assistance on April 18, according to the British Foreign Office. And the U.S. has said its embassy and staff agencies offered help and were in touch with Nigeria "from day one" of the crisis, according to Secretary of State John Kerry.

Yet it was only on Tuesday and Wednesday, almost a month later, that President Goodluck Jonathan accepted help from the United States, Britain, France and China.

The delay underlines what has been a major problem in the attempt to find the girls: an apparent lack of urgency on the part of the government and military, for reasons that include a reluctance to bring in outsiders as well as possible infiltration by the extremists.

Jonathan bristled last week when he said U.S. President Barack Obama, in a telephone conversation about aid, had brought up alleged human rights abuses by Nigerian security forces. Jonathan also acknowledged that his government might be penetrated by insurgents from Boko Haram, the extremist group that kidnapped the girls. Last year, he said he suspected Boko Haram terrorists might be in the executive, legislative and judiciary arms of government along with the police and armed forces.

The waiting has left parents in agony, especially since they fear some of their daughters have been forced into marriage with their abductors for a nominal bride price of $12. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau called the girls slaves in a video this week and vowed to sell them.

"For a good 11 days, our daughters were sitting in one place," said Enoch Mark, the anguished father of two girls abducted from the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School. "They camped them near Chibok, not more than 30 kilometers, and no help in hand. For a good 11 days."

The military has denied that it ignored warnings of the impending attacks. Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade, a Defense Ministry spokesman, told The Associated Press the major challenge has been that some of the information given turned out to be misleading.

And Reuben Abati, one of Jonathan's presidential advisers, denied that Nigeria had turned down offers of help.

"That information cannot be correct," he said. "What John Kerry said is that this is the first time Nigeria is seeking assistance on the issue of the abducted girls."

In fact, Kerry has said Nigeria did not welcome U.S. help earlier because it wanted to pursue its own strategy. U.S. Sen. Chris Coons said Friday that it took "far too long" for Jonathan to accept U.S. offers of aid, and he is holding a hearing next week to examine what happened. A senior State Department official also said Friday that the U.S. offered help "back in April, more or less right away."

"We didn't go public about it because the consensus was that doing so would make the Nigerians less likely to accept our help," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the issue concerns internal discussions between governments.

On Sunday, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer criticized the "disturbingly slow and half-hearted response" by the Nigerian government.

Nigeria is a country of 170 million in West Africa that receives hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid from the U.S. every year to address a rising insurgency in the north and growing tensions between Christians and Muslims. The northeast, where the girls were kidnapped, is remote and sparsely populated, far from the southern oil fields that help to power Africa's biggest economy.

Terror group Boko Haram torments Nigeria

Since 2009, the Islamic terror group Boko Haram, which violently opposes Western-style education, has waged a campaign of bombings and mass killings across northeast Nigeria. They have claimed responsibility for abducting about 276 teenage schoolgirls from Chibok, Nigeria, April 14.

• **2009** Founding leader Mohammed Yusuf killed while in police custody; he is succeeded by Abubakar Shekau

Major attacks

1. Dec. 2010 Militants bomb Jos, killing 80

2. Aug. 2011 Suicide bombing at U.N. building in Abuja kills at least 21

Dec. 25, 2011 Bomb attacks kill dozens at multiple sites

3. Jan. 2012 More than 180 killed in bombing attacks in Kano

4. June 17, 2012 More than 130 corpses found in two mostly deserted villages in the Barkin Ladi area of Plateau state; attributed to Boko Haram

5. Oct. 3, 2012 Gunmen kill at least 46 people, mostly students, at Federal Polytechnic in Mubi, Adamawa state

6. March 18, 2013 Suicide bomb attack is aimed at Christian students waiting for buses in Kano

7. May 7, 2013 At least 55 killed in attacks on barracks, a prison and police post in Bama

8. July 6, 2013 Gunmen kill 42 people, mostly students, in an attack on a secondary school in Mamudo town, Yobe state; some victims reportedly burned alive

Sept. 2013 More than 160 civilians in Borno state killed in two roadside attacks thought to be in response to government offensive against Boko Haram

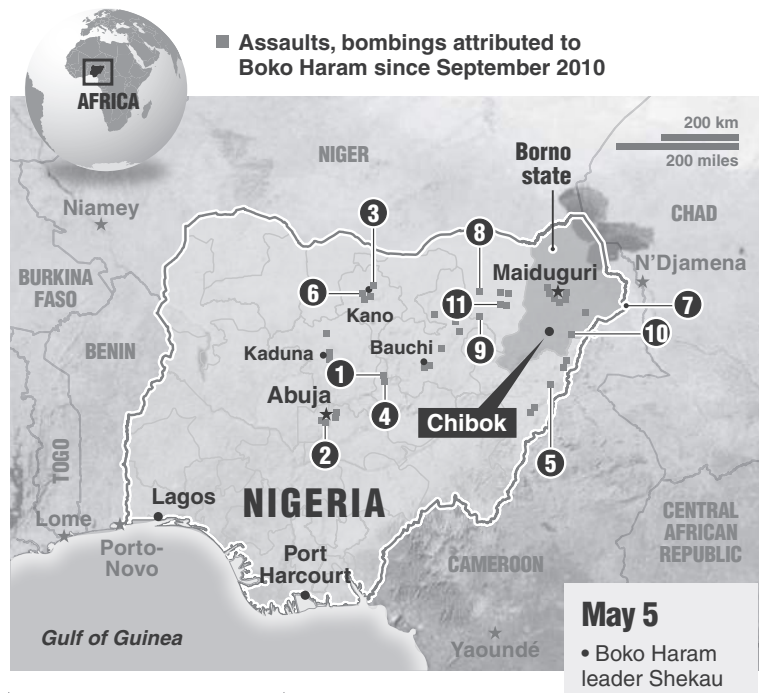
9. Sept. 29, 2013 Raid on male dormitory at College of Agriculture at Gujba, Yobe state, killing 44 students and teachers

10. Feb. 16, 2014 Gunmen raid town of Izghe, rounding up men and shooting them, then going door-to-door, eventually killing an estimated 108 villagers

11. Feb. 25, 2014 Raid on rural boarding school leaves at least 29 teen boys dead in Buni Yadi town, Yobe state

April 14, 2014 Almost 300 girls kidnapped in Chibok; some escape

May 6, 2014 Reports surface of another 11 girls kidnapped in northeast Borno state



May 5

• Boko Haram leader Shekau claims in a video that his group abducted the girls, who had gathered at Chibok April 14 for exams

• He said he would "sell them in the market"

• Unconfirmed reports suggest possibility some of the girls have been moved into Cameroon and Chad

Source: ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, NRCa, online nigeria, The Daily Trust, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, BBC, AllAfrica.com, AP, The Guardian, Reuters

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

Syria opens presidential campaign as war rages on

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—On billboards and in posters taped to car windows, new portraits of President Bashar Assad filled the streets of Damascus on Sunday as Syria officially opened its presidential campaign despite a crippling civil war that has devastated the country and left large chunks of territory outside of government control.

The Syrian opposition and its Western allies have denounced the June 3 election as a sham designed to lend Assad, who is widely expected to win another seven-year term, a veneer of electoral legitimacy. The government, meanwhile, has touted the vote as the political solution to the conflict.

The election comes more than three years into a revolt against Assad's rule that has killed more than 150,000 people and forced more than 2.5 million to seek refuge abroad. The war has destroyed entire cities and towns, left the economy in tatters, and set alight sectarian hatreds in a society once known for its tolerance.

With the country so bitterly divided, it remains unclear how the government intends to hold a credible vote in the middle of the conflict. But officials have brushed aside such doubts, and have forged ahead undeterred.

Assad faces two other candidates in the race: Maher Hajjar and Hassan al-Nouri, both members of the so-called internal opposition tolerated by the government. But the men are relatively unknown, and neither has the full weight of the state behind him like Assad does.

That distinction was on full display Sunday on the streets of Damascus.

On the bustling Thawra Street in the center of the city, two new Assad billboards greeted the crowds below. One shows Assad, dressed in a gray suit and blue shirt, along with the word "Together." The second billboard just reads "Together," along with the president's signature.

Several cars flying national flags and photos of the president blasted nationalist songs as they cruised the capital's streets in a show of support for Assad, who has ruled the country since taking over from his father, Hafez, in 2000.

Riyadh Shahin, 44, a government employee, said that he intends to vote for Assad.

"I am still convinced that he was still the sole leader who can achieve the aspirations of the Syrian people," Shahin said. "In my opinion, Assad is the suitable person for this post, because without him, Syria was now divided. He is the sole guarantee to keep Syria strong."

Armed men in eastern Ukraine open fire on crowd

KRASNOARMEISK, Ukraine (AP)—Armed men identified as Ukrainian national guard opened fire Sunday on a crowd outside a town hall in eastern Ukraine, and an official for the region's insurgents said there were fatalities.

The bloodshed in the town of Krasnoarmeisk occurred hours after dozens of armed men shut down voting in a referendum on sovereignty for the region. One of them identified the group as being national guardsmen.

An Associated Press photographer who witnessed the shooting said two people were seen lying unmoving on the ground and insurgent leader Denis Pushilin was quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency as saying there were an unspecified number of deaths.

Several hours earlier, the men came to the town about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the regional capital, Donetsk, and dispersed referendum voting that was taking place outside the town hall and they took control of the building. In the evening, more arrived in a van and a scuffle broke out with people who were gathered around the building. Then they fired shots.

Witnesses to the shooting posted a number of videos on YouTube. One of the videos shows several armed men holding AK-47s yelling to the crowd "go home, get out of here." One then cocks his weapon, and seconds later a man from the crowd steps forward and approaches another gunman, also carrying an AK-47, to speak with him. The gunman fires a warning shot over his head, but that doesn't deter the man. He continues to approach as shots continue and the man is struck by a bullet, falls to the ground and can be seen bleeding from his leg.

The video, shot by someone at the scene of the confrontation, has been authenticated based on accounts by AP journalists at the site and was consistent with AP's own reporting on what happened.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope to priests: forgive, don't shut out sinners

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has taken to task priests who are so harsh on sinners that faithful feel pushed away by the church. Francis said during his homily in St. Peter's Basilica Sunday that he feels very pained when people don't go to confession anymore because they were figuratively "caned, scolded" by their confessors. He said these faithful feel as if "the church doors were closed in their face." "Please don't do this," the pope told 13 new priests he ordained in the basilica. He urged them to follow the example of Jesus in never tiring of being merciful. Francis said priests should remember that Jesus "didn't come to condemn but to forgive."

Venezuela sends 11 students to trial, frees others

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan courts have ordered 11 student protesters to stand trial, but they have freed more than 150 others arrested with them during raids on their encampments, prosecutors said Sunday. The statement from prosecutor's office said the 11 face charges including weapons offenses, criminal association and incitement to violate laws, as well as drug violations. But it said 156 others will be freed, though they will have to report periodically to the courts. And prosecutors asked that 15 be sent for treatment of drug use. Some protesters were freed earlier. Hundreds of police and troops arrested 243 student protesters during pre-dawn raids Thursday on four encampments of protesters opposed to President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government.

Focus

HIGH COST, CORRUPTION claims mar Brazil World Cup

By BRADLEY BROOKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—The cost of building Brasilia's World Cup stadium has nearly tripled to $900 million in public funds, largely due to allegedly fraudulent billing, government auditors say. The spike in costs has made it the world's second-most expensive soccer arena, even though the city has no major professional team.

Mane Garrincha stadium, which boasts 288 imposing concrete pillars holding aloft a high-tech self-cleaning roof, has become the costliest project related to Brazil's $11.5 billion World Cup. Critics call it the poster child for out-of-control spending and mismanagement, or worse.

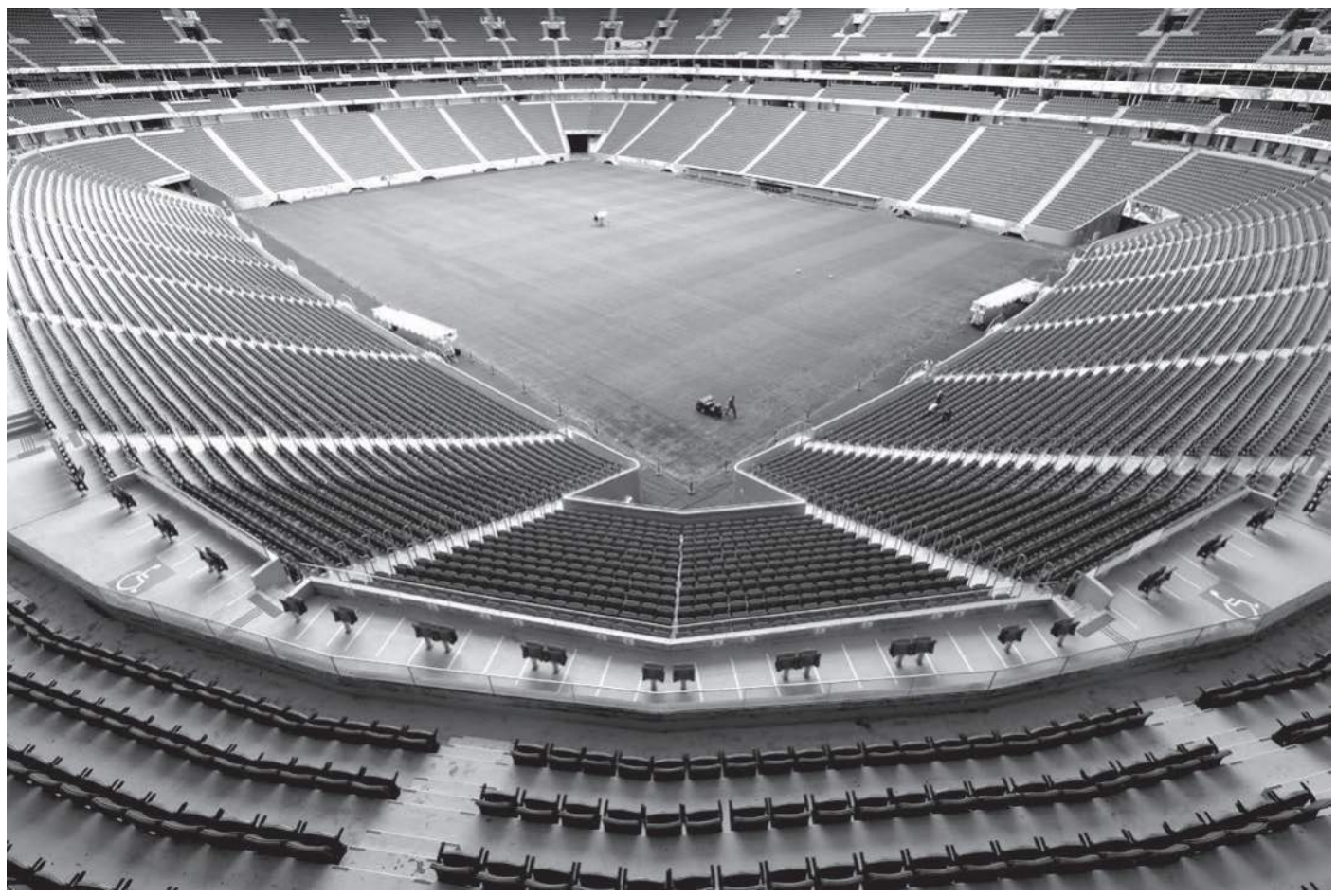
Now, an Associated Press analysis of data from Brazil's top electoral court shows skyrocketing campaign contributions by the very companies involved in the most Cup projects. The lead builder of Brasilia's stadium increased its political donations 500-fold in the most recent election.

The financial links between construction firms and politicians add to deep suspicions among Brazilians that preparations for soccer's premier event beginning next month are tainted by corruption, raising questions about how politicians who benefit from construction firms' largesse can be effective watchdogs over billion-dollar World Cup contracts. Anger over perceived corruption helped fuel huge protests last year, and there are fears more unrest could mar the Cup.

"These donations are making corruption in this country even worse and making it increasingly difficult to fight," said Renato Rainha, an arbiter at Brasilia's Audit Court, which is investigating the spending on Brasilia's stadium. "These politicians are working for those who financed campaigns."

In a 140-page report on the stadium, the auditors found $275 million in alleged price-gouging—and they have only examined three-fourths of the project. They forecast that fully one-third of the stadium's cost may be attributable to overpricing, the largest single chunk of $500 million in suspect spending auditors have flagged in World Cup construction projects so far.

Federal prosecutors say as yet no individuals or companies face corruption charges related to World Cup work, but it could take years for official audits to be finalized and judged by civil courts, a required step before any criminal charges are filed. There are at least a dozen separate federal investigations into World Cup spending.



AP

This April 8, 2014, photo, shows a view of the Mane Garrincha stadium, in Brasilia, Brazil. which boasts 288 imposing concrete pillars holding aloft a high-tech self-cleaning roof, has become the costliest project related to Brazil's $11.5 billion World Cup. Critics call it the poster child for out-of-control spending and mismanagement, or worse. In a poll last year three-fourths of respondents said the World Cup construction has been infused with corruption.

"Is there corruption in the Cup? Of course, without a doubt," said Gil Castelo Branco, founder of the watchdog group Contas Abertas that campaigns for transparency in government spending. "Corruption goes where the money is, and in Brazil today, the big money is tied up in the Cup."

■■■

The price of building or refurbishing the 12 arenas alone has nearly quadrupled from initial estimates, helping make Brazil's World Cup the priciest of any yet.

Funding for Brasilia's stadium relies solely on financing from the federal district's coffers, meaning every cent comes from taxpayers. The auditors' report found instances of what appears to be flagrant overpricing.

For instance, the auditor's report says transportation of pre-fabricated grandstands was supposed to cost just $4,700 - but the construction consortium billed the government $1.5 million. The consortium is made up of Andrade Gutierrez, a construction conglomerate, and Via Engenharia, an engineering firm.

The steel to build the arena represented one-fifth of total expenses - and auditors say wasteful cutting practices or poor planning added $28 million in costs, the single biggest overrun uncovered so far.

The audit questions why the consortium had to discard 12 percent of its steel in Brasilia when Andrade Gutierrez, using the same cutting methods, lost just 5 percent of steel at another stadium it helped build in the Amazon city of Manaus and virtually none at a Cup arena in Cuiaba.

Another $16 million was lost when Brasilia's government inexplicably failed to enforce a fine against Andrade Gutierrez for a five-month delay in completion of the main portion of the stadium.

Auditors also say they spotted $2.3 million worth of materials that were simply listed multiple times on bills.

Andrade Gutierrez did not respond to an AP request for comment on the accusations of cost overruns.

But Claudio Monteiro, the head of the government's World Cup committee in Brasilia responsible for oversight, said the audit court's allegations are simply wrong and that all spending on the Brasilia stadium would be justified.

"This report comes out just 100 days before the Cup? That's why I say they're trying to spoil the party," Monteiro said from his office outside the stadium. "We're going to show how this report is off base."

Monteiro is the former chief of staff to Brasilia's Gov. Agnelo Queiroz, a position he was forced from in April 2012 amid accusations he was part of a widespread kickback scheme. That scandal also forced him to give up his seat on the World Cup committee, but no charges were filed and he returned to the post a few months later.

Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, a member of the Communist Party of Brazil, defended the legacy the Cup will leave behind for average Brazilians and said anybody responsible for misspent public funds would be found out.

"No disservice will be done to the people because of this Cup," Rebelo said in a recent interview at his office, adorned with busts of Mao Zedong, Karl Marx and Abraham Lincoln. "If any corruption is proven, it will go through our legal system and punishments will be handed out for anyone found responsible."

■■■

In a poll last year three-fourths of respondents said the World Cup construction has been infused with corruption.

Their anger fueled widespread and often violent anti-government protests last June that sent more than a million Brazilians into the street during FIFA's Confederations Cup soccer tournament, the warm-up event to the World Cup. Many protesters railed against corruption and the billions spent to host the events.

The distrust isn't surprising in a nation where 40 percent of federal congressmen have criminal cases pending against them before the country's highest court, according to the watchdog group Congresso em Foco, bolstering concerns the rise in campaign contributions found by the AP likely influenced government spending on the Cup.

The overall price of the 12 stadiums, four of which critics say will become white elephants after the tournament because they are in cities that cannot support them, has jumped to $4.2 billion in nominal terms, nearly four times the estimate in a 2007 FIFA document published just days before Brazil was awarded the tournament. At the time, leaders also promised the stadiums would be privately funded.

"There's collusion of the Brazilian governmental elite with the business elite, and the game is rigged in their favor," said Christopher Gaffney, a professor at Rio's Federal University whose research focuses on the country's preparations for the World Cup and 2016 Olympics. "This was an opportunity to make a lot of money and that's what's happened."

Andrade Gutierrez, which was awarded stakes in contracts totaling nearly one-fourth of the Cup's total price tag, contributed $73,180 in 2008 municipal elections. Four years later, after it was known which cities were hosting Cup matches and thus which political parties controlled the local governments that awarded and are overseeing Cup projects, the company's political contributions totaled $37.1 million.

The 500-fold increase in Andrade Gutierrez's political spending far outpaced the overall 84-percent jump in corporate campaign contributions between the same two elections.

It was in 2010, in between those two elections, that Andrade Gutierrez won bids to build or renovate four stadiums.

The political contributions of Brazil's top builder, Odebrecht, also had a 127-fold increase between those two elections—from $90,909 in 2008 to $11.6 million in 2012. It also won four stadium contracts worth billions along with a much-criticized contract to operate Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium for 35 years.

Rio state prosecutors have asked a court to force the renegotiation of the contract. They accuse the government of handing over a sweetheart deal to the Odebrecht consortium, which also includes the firms IMX of Brazil tycoon Eike Batista and Los Angeles-based entertainment giant AEG.

The consortium will pay the government about $2 million a year - but prosecutors point out that doesn't even cover the $13.5 million a year the state must pay to service its 15-year loan to build the stadium.

In emailed statements, both Andrade Gutierrez and Odebrecht noted that their donations were legal under Brazilian law. They didn't respond to questions about why their contributions had spiked so markedly in recent elections.

The donations are virtually impossible to link directly to candidates.

That's because nearly all the money was given to national parties and thrown into a single pot for them to distribute, obscuring ties between corporations and specific politicians.

In March, Brazil's top electoral court mandated that money given by national party committees to candidates must indicate who originally gave the money to the committee.

Overdrive

The most fuel-efficient cars in the country

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

GM/MCT

The 2014 Chevrolet Spark EV is Chevrolet's first all-electric vehicle.

If you need to know how drastically the car market has changed, consider the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2014 list of the 10 most fuel-efficient vehicles: They're all powered by electricity, not gasoline. For most consumers, however, an electric car is not a realistic solution, as most electric cars can't travel farther than 100 miles under ideal circumstances. And once depleted, batteries can takes hours to refuel.

So let's take a look at the EPA's most fuel-efficient vehicles—five powered by electricity and six fueled by gasoline.

Vehicles are listed in order by their combined EPA city/highway fuel economy rating. For electric vehicles, ratings are combined mpg-e, or miles per gallon equivalent.

TOP ELECTRIC-POWERED

1 Chevrolet Spark EV. EPA rating: 119 mpg-e. Price: $26,685-$27,010.

Surprise! The most fuel-efficient vehicle sold in the United States is a Chevrolet. The Spark EV has an 82-mile range and a top speed of 90 mph. Reaching 60 mph takes fewer than 8 seconds, thanks to the motor's 400 pound-feet of torque. And it's still as fun to drive as its gas-sipping cousin. Too bad it's sold only in Oregon and California.

2 Honda Fit EV. EPA rating: 118 mpg-e. Price: $389 per month (lease only).

The Fit EV is a bit bigger than the Spark EV, is almost as miserly with fuel and also has an 82-mile range. Recharging takes as little as three hours. But you can't buy one—it's offered only as a three-year lease at a fixed price in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Oregon.

3 Fiat 500e. EPA rating: 116 mpg-e. Price: $31,800.

How good is the Fiat 500e? Well, Road & Track named it its Best Electric. The 500e produces 111 horsepower and runs 87 miles on a single charge. It takes less than four hours to re-energize. If you need to drive farther or need a larger vehicle, 500e owners get 12 days of free car rentals annually. But it's sold only in California.

4 Nissan Leaf. EPA rating: 114 mpg-e. Price: $28,980-$35,020.

This vehicle's bizarre pseudo-crossover styling cloaks a vehicle that feels like a normal Japanese auto. Steering effort is light, as is the feel of the pedals. You can momentarily cancel Eco mode for that burst of speed by flooring the accelerator. The EPA estimates its range at 84 miles. Recharging takes 8 hours or more.

5 Smart Fortwo EV. EPA rating: 107 mpg-e. Price: $25,000-$28,000.

For American car buyers, who have gorged on SUVs like starved patrons at an all-you-can-eat buffet, the Smart Fortwo EV is an automotive diet lunch. It has just two seats, a top speed of 78 mph and a range of 68 miles. Recharging takes as little as six hours. And unlike other EVs, it's available as a convertible.

DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Toyota unveils the Toyota Prius c at the 2012 North American International Auto Show, at Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan, Tuesday, January 10, 2012. The c is for "city driving" and it is the highest fuel-efficient vehicle with 53 miles to the gallon without a plug.

TOP GAS-POWERED FUEL SIPPERS

1 (tie) Toyota Prius, Toyota Prius C. EPA rating: 50 mpg. Prices: $24,200-$30,005 (Prius); $19,080-$23,360 (Prius C).

Toyota describes the Prius as "an enthusiast's car for a new kind of enthusiast." But the thrills come not from the speedometer, but from the fuel gauge, which barely budges as the miles pass. The Prius C is 19.1 inches shorter than the Prius and returns 3 mpg more in city driving, but the Prius trumps the C on the highway.

2 (tie) Ford Fusion Hybrid, Honda Accord Hybrid. EPA rating: 47 mpg. Prices: $26,270-$32,600 (Fusion); $29,155-$34,905 (Accord).

It's hard to go wrong with either one of these hybrids. That said, the Ford Fusion Hybrid is better-looking and more fun to drive than the conservatively styled Honda Accord Hybrid. On the other hand, the Honda has a noticeably roomier cabin. And while the Ford is rated at 47 mpg city, 47 highway, the Honda returns 50 mpg city, 45 mpg highway.

3 (tie) Lincoln MKZ Hybrid, Volkswagen Jetta Hybrid. EPA rating: 45 mpg. Prices: $35,190 (MKZ); $27,645-$31,895 (Jetta).

The Lincoln MKZ may be mechanically related to the Fusion Hybrid, but it gives up a couple mpg in the process. That said, Lincoln doesn't charge a premium for it; its price is the same as the MKZ's conventional gas model. By contrast, Volkswagen, like many automakers, charges a premium for the hybrid version of the Jetta.

UNDER THE HOOD

Alternator replacement likely to be sturdier

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 2000 Honda Accord EX V-6 with a little more than 44,800 miles on it. In February the alternator failed and was replaced. I would love to learn more about this incident. Is this a once-in-a-lifetime event? I hope so. I have a friend who also had alternator failure when she was 200 miles from her destination in northern California. Thanks to her cellphone, she got help.

ANSWER: Let's take a look at what alternators do, and how they work, before putting your mind at ease.

Virtually all motor vehicles built since the 1960s employ an alternator, which generates electrical power for the entire vehicle. The battery simply stores energy, and is used for engine startup, engine-off accessory use, and serves as a voltage stabilizer, and a backup—for a limited time, should the alternator fail while driving. With minimal electrical accessory usage, one might drive perhaps several hours with a just-failed alternator. Don't shut off the engine until reaching a safe place, as the starter requires a lot of battery energy.

Alternators get their name because the electricity generated inside alternates between positive and negative polarity. AC current is great for powering devices, but cannot be stored. A group of diodes within the alternator rectify the AC current into DC (constant polarity) current before sending it out for vehicle use and to the battery for storage.

Alternators convert belt-driven mechanical energy from the engine into electrical power. The more electrical power that is needed, the greater the load on the belt and engine. The drive belt must be in good condition and properly tensioned, or alternator performance will be compromised. Also, heavy electrical use reduces fuel economy, as the engine must work harder to turn the alternator. For this reason, recent vehicles employ smart operating strategies similar to hybrid vehicles, emphasizing alternator usage during coasting and braking conditions when engine slow-down is desired.

To give you the best answer, I consulted with alternator and starter guru Rod Stuart, owner of San Jose (Calif.) Generator. Rod knew your alternator intimately. It's actually a General Motors CS-130 employing a Hitachi voltage regulator for compatibility with Honda's energy management system, and is hamstrung with rather wimpy rectifying diodes. Heavy electrical usage immediately after engine startup—perhaps utilizing front- and rear-window defrosters, lights and wipers—stresses the diodes to capacity, which can lead to failure. He indicated this is a well-known weakness and virtually all replacement alternators for this application use upgraded parts to address the issue. So rest easy!

Alternators are typically very durable, but do employ brushes to connect field circuit power to the rotor (a revolving multiple pole electromagnet) Along with most electric motors, which also use brushes, they will wear out some day. Starters and fuel pumps may last perhaps 150,000 miles, and power window and door lock motors will eventually give up after many years of up-down window cycles.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Noah, Sophia are most popular baby names for 2013

Noah and Sophia are America's most popular baby names for 2013, according to a Social Security report. First time atop the list is Noah, the first new boys name at No. 1 since 1960 other than Jacob or Michael, and the third straight year for Sophia. This is huge news in the world of baby names with Noah rising to the top, unseating Jacob. Proving to be America's favorite before the 2014 Russell Crowe movie *Noah* climbed atop the box office charts! There is only one new name in the top 10 this year—Daniel, but he has been there before. Also, be on the lookout for another Sophia crawling up the list—Sofia with an "f" has reached her highest spot ever at number 13.

The top 10 boys names for 2013 are Noah, Liam, Jacob, Mason, William, Ethan, Michael, Alexander, Jayden, and Daniel.

The top 10 girls names for 2013 are Sophia, Emma, Olivia, Isabella, Ava, Mia, Emily, Abigail, Madison, and Elizabeth.

The agency began compiling the baby name list in 1997, with names dating to back to 1880. At the time of a child's birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child's Social Security card, thus making Social Security America's source for the most popular baby names.

» Noah floats to the top; Jacob had held top spot since 1999

Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends. This year's winners for biggest jump in popularity in the Top 1,000 are Jayceon and Daleyza. The fastest riser for boys, Jayceon, gained popularity as it is the birth name of VH1's cable reality series "*Marrying The Game*" star and award-winning rapper The Game. The show follows the life of Jayceon "The Game" Taylor, as a rapper and father of three. The show premiered in late 2012 and obviously had its effect on naming trends throughout 2013.

On the girls' side, Daleyza, may have been influenced by a popular Spanish-language cable TV series, "*Larrymania*," which airs on mun2. Daleyza is the young daughter of Larry Hernandez, an American regional Mexican singer and reality TV star. The name increased in popularity by more than 3,000 spots, so the show undoubtedly had an influence.

The second fastest riser for boys was Milan, and for girls, Marjorie.

For all the top baby names of 2013, go to Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov. ***(PR)***

Eurovision-winning drag queen returns to Austria in triumph

AP

Austrian singer Conchita Wurst arrives with the trophy at the airport in Vienna Sunday May 11, 2014.

VIENNA (AP)—Bearded drag queen Conchita Wurst made a triumphant return to Austria on Sunday after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in what the country's president called a victory for tolerance in Europe.

Wurst was greeted at Vienna airport by hundreds of fans singing the winning ballad, "Rise like a Phoenix."

Wurst drew criticism from eastern Europe before Saturday's show, with some blasting her as an example of Western decadence.

However, Austria won points even from Russia. Wurst told a news conference shortly after her arrival in Vienna that shows "you can't reduce a country to its tolerance or intolerance."

"Yesterday was a victory not just for me, but also for those people who believe in future that functions without discrimination and which is based on tolerance and respect," Wurst said. "That was transnational and had nothing to with east and west."

President Heinz Fischer congratulated Wurst, the alter ego of 25-year-old Thomas Neuwirth—telling the Austria Press Agency it was "not just a victory for Austria, but above all for diversity and tolerance in Europe." Other political leaders joined in the congratulations.

Wurst told reporters that the victory doesn't put pressure on her because she doesn't consider herself "the ambassador of tolerance or the example"—though she is doing her "little bit."

"Shoot for the moon, even if you miss—you will land among the stars. That is exactly how I'm living," she said.

"I always say that my biggest goal is a Grammy, and on the way there I will grab everything that is given," Wurst added.

"Maybe I'll never get the Grammy. But maybe I will get things that are worth much, much more than any Grammy which could stand on my shelf. And that's why I will take everything I can get."

In Celebration of her new life

†*Ana Igibara Castro Javier*

July 17, 1946 – May 09, 2014

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: †**Norberto Santos Javier, Sr.**
Son: †Richard Edward
Daughter: †Tina Marie Castro Blanco
Parents: †Juan Cabrera DeCastro and †Esperansa Pangelinan Igibara Castro

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her children, grandchildren and families:
†**Tina Marie** (Ricardo, Jr., Clarissa Ann, and Andrew Steven)
Norbert Michael (Amy Faith)
Maria Christina (Zhyanne, Bert)
Rosaline and Edgardo (Alexandra Renee, Edgardo, Jr.)
Reynaldo and Florence (Ryan, Reyna, Reynaldo, Jr.)
Zenaida and Raymond (Andrea Hope and Nathaniel)
Joseph and Janelle (Tristan, Anber, Joseph, Jr., Audrey, Ethan, Isabelle)
Jeffrey and Maureen (Jerel, Natalia Ann, †Jordain, Norberto, Jeffrey, Jr., Alexander)

†Gregorio I. and Susana T. Castro
†Herman I. and Maria S. Castro
†Vicente I. and Theresa B. Castro
Marcelino I. Castro
Candido I. and Veminda Castro
Vicenta C. and Gary Wambolt
Dolores G. Castro
Magdalena C. and Fred F. Camacho
Juan I. and †Ellen E. Castro
Antonio I. Menelia S. Castro
†Margarita C. and Francisco B. Borja
Maria C. and Pedro S. Tudela
Jose I. Castro

Caregiver: Susan Amorales

She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at St Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest with her husband Bert.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Maraming Salamat

From the Children and Families of the late
†Norberto Santos, Sr. and †Ana Igibara Castro Javier

Larry Wilmore to replace Colbert on Comedy Central

NEW YORK (AP)—Writer-comic Larry Wilmore of "The Daily Show" has earned Stephen Colbert's coveted Comedy Central timeslot following Jon Stewart each night.

Comedy Central said Friday that Wilmore will host "The Minority Report" at 11:30 each weeknight, starting in January.

Wilmore, who's black, will add a different perspective to a late-night landscape dominated by white men.

The network said "The Minority Report" will provide a platform for "underrepresented voices in comedy and media." It was created and will be produced by Stewart, who will continue to host "The Daily Show."

Colbert, a fellow "Daily Show" alumnus who was rewarded with his own show a decade ago, is wrapping "The Colbert Report" at the end of this year and will take over for David Letterman at CBS' "Late Show" next year.

Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said network officials were "thrilled to be expanding our relationship with Jon Stewart and Busboy Productions and are looking forward to the world getting to know Larry Wilmore even better."

Wilmore will move from his Los Angeles base to New York to tape his new series.

AP

In this Monday, June 10, 2013, photo, Larry Wilmore accepts the best talk show award for "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" at the Critics' Choice Television Awards in the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"I'm beyond excited to have this chance to continue my relationships with Comedy Central and the brilliant Jon Stewart," he said. "I love the city of New York and promise to only wear my Laker T-shirts when I'm layering."

Stewart, calling Wilmore "a brilliant comic and showrunner," joked that "this is all just a complicated ruse to get him to move to New York and turn him into a Knicks fan."

The 52-year-old Wilmore serves as Senior Black Correspondent on "The Daily Show," which he joined in 2006. Before that he had written for "In Living Color," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "The Jamie Foxx Show." He co-created the animated series "The PJs" with Eddie Murphy as well as the critically acclaimed "Bernie Mac Show."

More recently, he served as executive producer of ABC's comedy "Black-ish," which just received a series pickup.

Just who would fill the vacancy left by Colbert has spurred a guessing game in recent weeks. An obvious successor would have been John Oliver, who left "The Daily Show" for an HBO program, "Last Week Tonight," which premiered in April. A presumed candidate: "At Midnight," a comedic trivia show hosted by Chris Hardwick that has gained a following since premiering last fall. It will remain in place, following "The Minority Report."

Wilmore's new show isn't the first Comedy Central venture to give a minority slant to satire. In fall 2008, the weekly "Chocolate News" was hosted by David Alan Grier, but it lasted just one season.

'Neighbors' unseats Spider-Man to top box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seth Rogen and Zac Efron have bested Spider-Man at the box office.

Rogen and Efron's family-versus-fraternity comedy "Neighbors," was the top draw for moviegoers this weekend, unseating last week's champ, "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

"Neighbors" debuted with $51 million in ticket sales, pushing Spidey to second place with $37 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

1. **"Neighbors,"** $51 million ($34.4 million international).
2. **"The Amazing Spider-Man 2,"** $37.2 million ($69.5 million international).
3. **"The Other Woman,"** $9.25 million ($13.1 million international).
4. **"Heaven Is for Real,"** $7 million.
5. **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier,"** $5.6 million ($3.5 million international).
6. **"Rio 2,"** $5.1 million ($14.1 million international).
7. **"Moms' Night Out,"** $4.2 million.
8. **"Legends of Oz,"** $3.7 million.
9. **"Divergent,"** $1.7 million ($3 million international).
10. **"Brick Mansions,"** $1.3 million.

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Rose Byrne, left, and Seth Rogen in a scene from "Neighbors."

"Sustaining a No. 1 ranking is generally tougher in the summer than any other time of year," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "You don't expect a comedy to be able to unseat an epic blockbuster, but historically it happens more than you think."

Raunchy comedies have traditionally found success in the summer movie season: Think "Bridesmaids," "The Hangover," 2012's "Ted" and last year's "The Heat."

"Neighbors" stars Rogen and Rose Byrne as new parents finding their footing in the suburbs when a fraternity led by Efron moves in next door. Filled with goofball and gross-out gags balanced with a dash of heart, the comedy boasts some epic party scenes and ample shirtless Efron.

The Universal release earned a "fresh" rating from review aggregator RottenTomatoes.com, with 74 percent of film critics responding favorably to the film. Conversely, Sony's "Amazing Spider-Man 2" earned a "rotten" rating of 54 percent.

Spidey is still a major success, with more than $550 million in worldwide ticket sales so far.

"Spider-Man has nothing to worry about," Dergarabedian said.

Another comedy, the Cameron Diaz-Leslie Mann revenge romp "The Other Woman" held onto third place in its third week of release, adding $9 million to its take. "Heaven Is for Real" and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" round out the top five.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Monday.

Summer movies highlight 20s to 30s shift

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Films about transitioning to adulthood have been a Hollywood staple for years. Some of today's biggest stars got their start as 20-somethings in mostly carefree coming-of-age movies.

But what about the often more complicated progression from our 20s to 30s? There have generally been fewer of those treatments on the big screen—that is, until now.

This summer, charming indies and raunchy comedies—including this weekend's "Neighbors"—explore what could be one of life's most challenging decades, but always with humor and also some surprising box office potential for studios.

While the 30s can be a satisfying time, full of firsts like marriage, buying a home and having children, the period can also bring tough crossroads both personally and professionally.

Yet films like "Neighbors" and the upcoming "Happy Christmas" and "Wish I Was Here" highlight the humor in common 30s plights while offering everyday relevancy to audiences in that age group.

In "Neighbors," a couple (Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne) and their newborn baby buy their first house, but their life is disrupted when a fraternity (led by Zac Efron) moves in next door.

"Yes, there are ridiculous, outrageous jokes," says Dave Karger, chief correspondent of movie ticket-seller Fandango. "But there's also real poignancy there and very relatable characters in their 30s."

In "Happy Christmas," due in July, an irresponsible 20-something (Anna Kendrick) moves in with her 30-something brother (Joe Swanberg), who has a 2-year-old with his wife (Melanie Lynskey), a stay-at-home mom who starts writing a trashy novel to ease her boredom.

A decade after Zach Braff tackled tragedy as a 20-something in "Garden State," he portrays love and loss in his 30s in July's "Wish I Was Here," which follows a struggling actor (Braff) who must homeschool his two kids after his father's cancer worsens and he can no longer afford private school. Kate Hudson plays his wife, a woman who hates her job, but must stick it out to provide for her family.

"What that age group is going through, it's not just a wacky high school night out or a college first love," says Karger. "The particular themes, like an early mid-life crisis, are really interesting."

Character-based films have never been an easy sell for studios or audiences, notes Karger. "The main audience that you think of at the theater is teen boys and 20-somethings."

But the 25 to 39-year-old demographic actually makes up the largest amount of frequent moviegoers.

In 2013, they equaled 23 percent of those who go to the movies more than once a month, according to the 2013 Theatrical Market Statistics Report by the Motion Picture Association of America. This age group was also highest in both 2011 and 2012.

Other films targeted for the 25-39 demo this summer include "Blended," starring Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler; "Begin Again," with Mark Ruffalo and Keira Knightley; and "They Came Together," featuring Amy Poehler and Paul Rudd.

Though they won't tally as much as the superhero flicks, films targeting 30-somethings can be among the most profitable because they don't cost as much to make.

Additionally, "the good ones have a long shelf life," says Alex Ben Block, senior film editor of The Hollywood Reporter. "With classic movies of the genre like 'When Harry Met Sally.,' 'Sleepless in Seattle' or 'Bridget Jones's Diary,' you got a pretty good run in the theater and then in home video, DVD or digital."

But initially, they're often hard to market. It's key, says Block, for studios to do a lot of screenings to ignite buzz—and hope for rave reviews, because people in this group still read reviews and are affected by them.

The stars' likability and familiarity also matter, adds Block. "This audience is sophisticated. They aren't going to the movies just to go."

If "Neighbors" dominates on its opening weekend as expected (projections have it making nearly $50 million), could the studios' view of these types of films change?

"Three years ago 'Bridesmaids' was a smash and now this summer there are all of these hard R-rated comedies," says Karger. "It takes about two or three years to see the effect of a game-changing movie. If 'Neighbors' becomes this smash, then I think there will be more of an appetite at the studios for films of this type."

Jolie, Pitt ponder screen reunion

LONDON (AP)—Angelina Jolie says she plans to cut back on movie roles to concentrate on her humanitarian work, though she is mulling an on-screen reunion with partner Brad Pitt.

Attending a Kensington Palace costume event for her new Disney movie "Maleficent" with Pitt, Jolie told reporters that "we are thinking about it." They haven't appeared in a movie together since "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" in 2005.

But she said at a press conference Friday that her priority was her work as an envoy for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative.

She said acting was "going to be taking more of a back seat."

"I'm sure there will be a few more films. But I am happy I am able to be selective and have fun with characters like this but I would like to focus on writing and directing and above all I would like to focus more on my work with the U.N. and PSVI," Jolie said.

AP

Actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie arrive for the Maleficent exhibit in Kensington Gardens, London, Thursday, May. 8, 2014.

Jolie was joined by Pitt and 12-year-old son Maddox on the blue carpet for Thursday evening's "Maleficent" event.

Jolie plays the eponymous sorceress in the fairy-tale film, which was also a family affair. The couple's 5-year-old daughter Vivienne makes her screen debut as the young Sleeping Beauty.

Jolie said she loved bringing her kids on set: "They lived on the fairy mound. They hung out with Elle (Fanning). It was magic."

"Maleficent" is out in Britain on May 28 and in the U.S. on May 30.

Britney Spears adds shows to Las Vegas residency

NEW YORK (AP)—Caesars Entertainment says Britney Spears is adding more than 30 dates to her Las Vegas residency.

"Britney: Piece of Me" will now play shows in October through December and February. Shows have also been added in August and September.

The Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino says the first round of shows in August and September sold out.

The 31-year-old Spears kicked off the two-year residency late last year around the time she released her eighth album, "Britney Jean."

Hugh Jackman has another cancerous growth removed

Jackman

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman has had another cancerous growth removed.

The 45-year-old actor attended the premiere of his latest film, "X-Men: Days of Future Past" Saturday night with a bandage over his nose. He told The Associated Press he had a basal-cell carcinoma removed two nights earlier.

Jackman said learned the results of a recent biopsy earlier on Thursday, and had it removed right after.

Basal-cell carcinoma is a slow-growing form of skin cancer. Jackman was treated for same disease last year but said the prognosis was good: "It's all out now."

But he urges others to "get checkups and wear sunscreen."

He says he hopes kids will listen to X-Men character Wolverine, or at least the man who plays him, and be smart about their health.

Maroon 5, Shakira rock Wango Tango

By NICOLE EVATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON, Calif. (AP)—Wango Tango alum Adam Levine welcomed a new generation of concert-goers to the annual, daylong music festival Saturday.

Before performing his hit "Pay Phone" the Maroon 5 frontman recalled his Wango debut in 2004.

"Half of you guys weren't even alive. So welcome," said a platinum blond Levine.

Colombian singer Shakira, British rocker Ed Sheernan and EDM producer-DJ Tiesto were the final acts at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif.

A Great Big World and Christina Aguilera sang their emotional ballad "Say Something." The pregnant pop star, who arrived late and breathless, said she had kicked off her heels and sprinted for the stage.

Other performers included Iggy Azalea, Ariana Grande, Calvin Harris, One Republic and Paramore.

Hamm gets Don Draper wax figure at Madame Tussauds

NEW YORK (AP)—What's the first thing Jon Hamm did when he saw his wax figure unveiled Friday at New York's Madame Tussauds?

Took a selfie, of course.

"That's a no-brainer. I'm probably not done doing that either," he told The Associated Press.

The wax figure is decked out in a debonair-looking grey suit. Ironically, Hamm, who stars in the AMC drama "Mad Men," arrived at the unveiling wearing a grey suit.

AP

Jon Hamm, right, takes a selfie at the unveiling of his wax figure at Madame Tussauds on Friday, May 9, 2014 in New York.

"This is happenstance, but it is kind of crazy how kind of identical we decided to dress. I'm referring to him as a human being as if he dressed himself," he said.

Hamm said he posed for the figure last year. It took months to craft the figure.

As Hamm posed for photos next to the figure, he also joked about the stoic expression on the mannequin saying "a lot of people would say this kind of describes my acting (on 'Mad Men'). A lot of waxy stares, a lot of silent brooding."

Hamm was joined by his longtime girlfriend, actress Jennifer Westfeldt, who kept marveling at how uncanny the figure looked like him.

The 43-year-old actor is in the middle of a publicity blitz for his new movie, "Million Dollar Arm," which opens May 16.

"Mad Men" is airing the first part of its seventh and final season.

Register for sex offenders covers a gamut of offenses

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: As a licensed psychotherapist who has worked with both victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse over the past 25 years, I would like to respond to "Stunned in the City" (Jan. 22), who found her co-worker's name on a website for registered sex offenders.

Registered sex offenders have been convicted and incarcerated for their crimes as well as serving a probationary period upon release. However, unlike other criminal offenses, they never finish "serving their time" -- both in the areas of WHERE they can live and HOW they can live (employment). They continue to serve a sentence that can never be completed and are stigmatized for the rest of their lives.

The reason for this is because of a "one-size-fits-all" approach to punishment, be it a one-time offender or a serial rapist. Most sexual abusers are either members of the family or a close family friend, and most are never reported. Only a small percentage of registered offenders pose a danger and should be under surveillance. The others should be allowed a second chance to continue with their lives without undue harassment.

If "Stunned" reports her co-worker to her employer, she will jeopardize his livelihood, which he needs to redeem his life.

ALREADY PAID HIS DEBT

DEAR A.P.H.D.: I received mail from mental health professionals, employers, parents and people who are on the sex offenders' list regarding "Stunned's" letter. All of them stated that the range of crimes that can add someone to the list is very broad. The list is no more than a STARTING point for people to begin their own research into public records before telling an employer or another person. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: For more than 20 years I have employed a man who is a convicted sex offender. He paid his debt to society for having sex with a minor when he was in his 20s. It will haunt him for the rest of his life.

The pictures you see online are recent because the authorities require updated photos yearly. I empathize with him because I dated a 15-year-old when I was 19—with her parents' approval—but today it could mean jail time and a ruined life.

There is no demarcation between being dumb and being truly criminal, so everyone is labeled the same. I suggest that we all stay aware of those labeled sexual predators, but approach the sexual offenders case-by-case.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

DEAR ABBY: Inclusion on the registry can be the result of something that would not pose a danger to anyone—urinating in public, or having sex with a younger girlfriend when you yourself are a minor.

If you see a neighbor or co-worker on such a list, no one should jump to conclusions before doing more research about the actual offense. It may be nothing to worry about at all, or it might be something to react to. But you won't know until you find out more than a simple listing.

REBECCA IN SAN DIEGO

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After breakfast on Saturdays, my husband and I settle in, listen to music and read the newspaper. It's our Saturday morning ritual.

As part of it, when I get to your column, I read it out loud to my husband. We enjoy the letters and your advice. When I finish, my husband almost invariably says, "You know, those letters are made up."

Abby, I think they are real, albeit edited, but genuine. He thinks they're fake. Who's right?

TRUE BELIEVER IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TRUE BELIEVER: You are. I could never make up anything as interesting as the mail that arrives from my readers day after day.

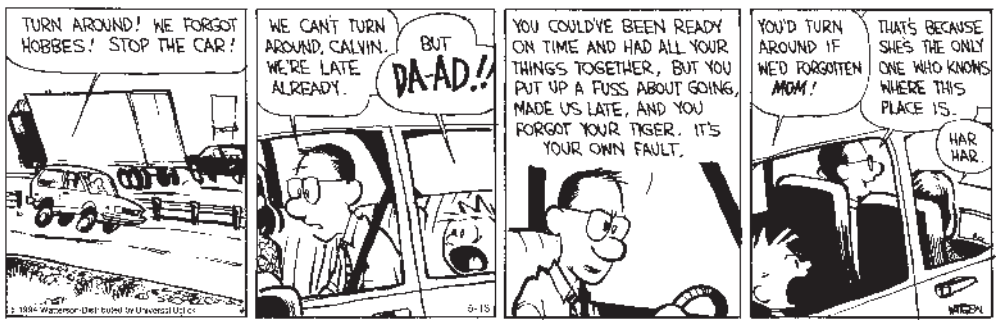
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


TURN AROUND! WE FORGOT HOBBES! STOP THE CAR!
WE CAN'T TURN AROUND, CALVIN. WE'RE LATE ALREADY.
BUT DA-AD!!
YOU COULD'VE BEEN READY ON TIME AND HAD ALL YOUR THINGS TOGETHER, BUT YOU PUT UP A FUSS ABOUT GOING, MADE US LATE, AND YOU FORGOT YOUR TIGER. IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT.
YOU'D TURN AROUND IF WE'D FORGOTTEN MOM!
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THIS PLACE IS.
HAR HAR.

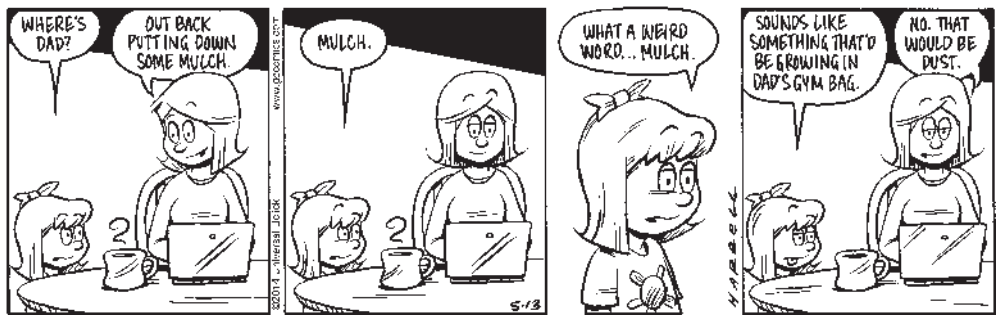
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT
OF COURSE THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THAT INSTANT GRATIFICATION THING, TOO
JIM DAVIS 5-13

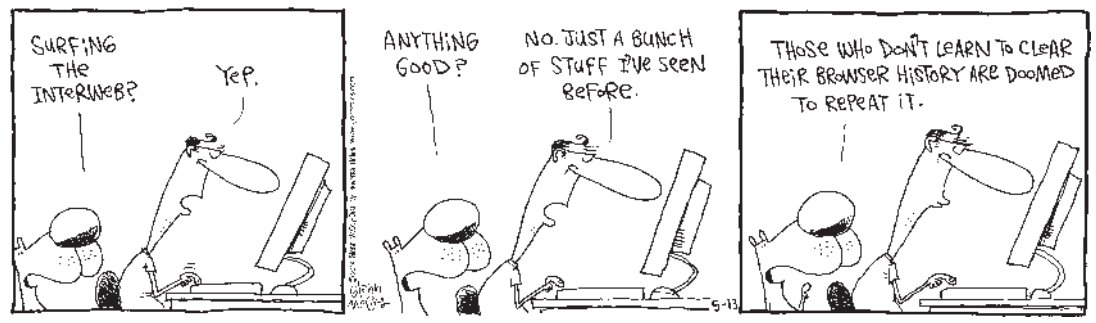
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'S DAD?
OUT BACK PUTTING DOWN SOME MULCH.
MULCH.
WHAT A WEIRD WORD... MULCH.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT'D BE GROWING IN DAD'S GYM BAG.
NO. THAT WOULD BE DUST.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SURFING THE INTERWEB?
YEP.
ANYTHING GOOD?
NO. JUST A BUNCH OF STUFF I'VE SEEN BEFORE.
THOSE WHO DON'T LEARN TO CLEAR THEIR BROWSER HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

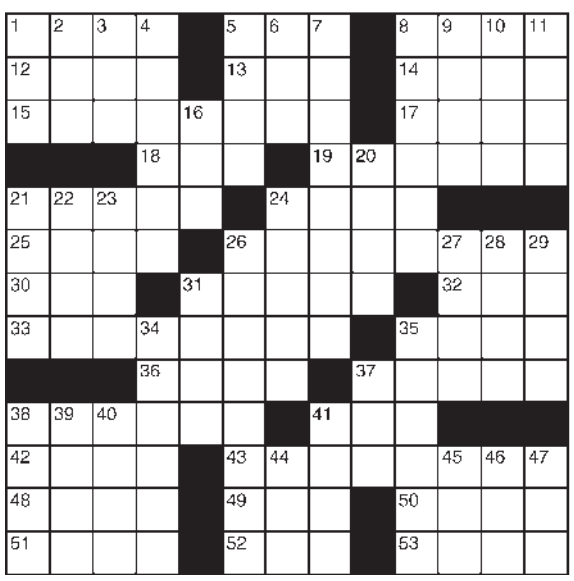
ACROSS
1 Zinger
5 Coloration
8 Dalai —
12 Culture medium
13 Assoc.
14 Tarzan's cronies
15 Cowboy Cassidy
17 Slam-dance
18 Doggy's doc
19 Sports award
21 Primary field of study
24 God, in Grenoble
25 Iowa city
26 Prop for a boxer in training
30 Pea holder
31 Wild West show
32 Possibly will
33 Omit
35 Rescue
36 "Family Guy" mom
37 Gives a darn
38 Mexican yam
41 Intimidate
42 Sibling-less
43 The next one is 2016
48 Malaria symptom
49 Once around
50 Therefore
51 Require
52 Decade parts (Abbr.)
53 Oboe insert

DOWN
1 "Hum-bug!"
2 Past
3 Knock
4 Shouts of approval
5 Owl's noise
6 Grecian vessel
7 It runs for a few minutes
8 Hope/Crosby co-star
9 Each
10 Network
11 Wan
16 Celtic sea god
20 Non-payment after-math, for short
21 Charts
22 Uncontrol-lable
23 Sci-fi knights
24 Guys
26 In a cheerful way
27 Actor Sharif
28 Macad-amize
29 Peepers
31 Leeway
34 Acted as
35 Finn's pal
37 Filch
38 Rivers or Jett
39 "Bus Stop" writer
40 Hint
41 Upper-case
44 Listener
45 Before
46 Time of your life?
47 Scepter

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	P		A	R	A	B	S		V	A	T
I	C	E		M	A	R	I	A		E	L	I
V	E	R	B	O	S	I	T	Y		R	O	E
			M	R	S		C	L	U	D	C	D
J	O	V	I	A	L		R	E	N	I		
A	L	E		L	E	G		S	I	G	H	T
M	E	R	C		D	U	O		T	R	E	E
B	O	S	O	M		N	E	V		I	A	N
			A	L	A	S		F	I	R	S	T	S
R	E	T	O	R	T		A	R	E			
A	M	I		V	E	R	M	I	L	I	O	N
I	L	L		E	L	I	E	L		S	H	E
D	Y	E		L	A	P	S	E		M	O	W

Yesterday's answer 5-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lena Dunham, 28; Robert Pattinson, 28; Stephen Colbert, 50; Stevie Wonder, 64

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plan. Do your own thing. The less dependent you are on others, the further ahead you will be. Focus on detail and completion and set rules and regulations. Problems with institutions will develop if you aren't careful. Learn from those with experience, but believe in your ability to take the knowledge you receive and make improvements. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 26, 34, 40, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Avoid any disputes by keeping busy and refusing to argue with anyone trying to blame or criticize you. Believe in who you are and what you do and keep moving forward. What you accomplish will turn into sweet revenge. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Use your skills wisely and you will be recognized for your ability to get things done. Look at the big picture and you will find it easier to branch out in more directions, making you marketable and in demand. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make personal changes that will enhance your appearance or add to your skills. Getting involved in a group that is trying to make a difference will allow you to utilize your knowledge and skills. Don't overspend trying to make an impression. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't play with fire. You are likely to take on more than you can handle, leaving you in a vulnerable position that opens you to criticism and complaints. Don't make an impulsive move. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Engage in talks with people or organizations that can offer you something new and exciting. Changing the way you do things or embracing a philosophy that suits your current situation will help you move forward emotionally. Love is on the rise. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave anything to chance when it comes to money or health issues. Follow through, but don't feel obligated to make an impulsive decision. Get the facts first and you will find a solution to whatever adjustment needs to be made. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop waffling and start embracing change. You need to make a move if you want to be successful. Use your mind and your body to reach your destination. All talk and no action will lead to a poor reputation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will escalate if you don't channel your energy into something creative or constructive. Do whatever it takes to discover and utilize the information you gather in a positive and efficient manner. An unusual change at home will stimulate your senses. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Fix up your home or make a move to better quarters. Put a little effort into the way you look. Start a new diet or exercise program that will boost your energy level and encourage you to live a healthier lifestyle. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Bide your time. Listen attentively, but don't give anyone the upper hand. Choose your battles carefully. Work quietly on the projects that you feel are most important and add your own personal touch to signify your skill and talent. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Listen and observe without reacting. Keeping your feelings a secret will give you an edge when dealing with your peers, relatives or anyone in your community. Size up your situation, go over your budget and make a strategic move. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make your money work for you. Look into unusual investments that will help you expand your interest and your earning potential. Network, but don't overstate what it is you have to offer. Paint an honest picture and you'll get what you want. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, original and creative. You are determined and forthright.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	3		2			
				9		3		
1							6	
6				8	7			2
	4		2	6	5		9	
7			1	3				5
	9							4
		3		4				
			6		9	2		

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	1	4	7	6	3	5
7	6	3	5	2	8	9	4	1
1	5	4	6	3	9	7	8	2
9	8	6	2	5	3	1	7	4
5	4	7	8	9	1	3	2	6
3	2	1	4	7	6	8	5	9
2	7	9	3	1	5	4	6	8
4	1	8	7	6	2	5	9	3
6	3	5	9	8	4	2	1	7

Difficulty Level ★ 5/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHILODENDRONS **Solution: 7 letters**

S	T	S	E	N	S	H	E	A	T	H	S	T	E	T
D	R	E	T	A	W	A	S	H	C	O	C	B	G	L
R	C	E	A	E	E	R	T	A	I	E	R	S	A	E
A	I	E	N	S	R	N	T	L	L	E	I	T	I	F
W	T	G	N	K	A	T	O	L	A	S	T	T	L	O
N	Y	R	I	L	A	V	O	E	O	R	N	B	O	R
W	H	A	P	A	E	C	C	H	A	E	M	N	F	E
O	P	L	S	T	N	A	P	C	T	I	I	E	G	S
D	I	F	E	S	R	R	T	S	L	S	W	E	E	T
E	P	R	S	A	O	I	I	C	T	H	R	R	N	S
R	E	U	W	M	V	S	Ⓜ	I	S	T	E	G	U	H
U	I	I	A	E	R	Ⓔ	C	P	E	M	W	R	S	A
T	M	T	M	E	Ⓣ	K	S	O	N	R	O	O	A	D
A	E	E	P	Ⓢ	Y	A	E	R	I	A	L	W	N	O
M	H	S	S	L	I	G	H	T	V	W	F	S	D	W

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Aerial, Ants, Araceae, Attach, Attractive, Climb, Collect, Downwards, Felt, Flower, Foliage, Forests, Fruit, Genus, Green, Grows, Hemiepiphytic, Large, Leaves, Light, Love, Matured, Metamorphosis, Nests, Persistent, Pinnate, Plant, Sand, Shadow, Sheath, Soil, Stalks, Stem, Sticky, Swamps, Sweet, Tree, Tropics, Vines, Warmth, Wash, Water.

Yesterday's Answer: Observational

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Accountant / Reservation Agent: $1,500 - $2,200 / month. Bachelor's degree in accounting and at least 2 years' accounting experience required. Must be familiar with U.S. GAAP and SAP. Korean language proficiency required. Email resume to asiana@hanmisaipan.com.

4 Waiter/Waitress: $5.55/hr. At least 2 years' experience required. Must be able to take orders in Korean, Chinese, and Japanese. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmi-saipan.com.

1 Maintenance and Repair Worker, General: $5.55/hr. At least 1 yr experience required. Email resume to mc@hanmisaipan.com.

R.E.A.L. International Corporation is looking for 4 Carpenters and 4 Mason. Email resume to: remypamintuan@gmail.com

(1) Accountant. B.S. Accounting Graduate. 3-5 years experience in Accounting field. Must have working knowledge on Accounting Softwares. $5.55/hour. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Pacific Basin Insurance Company, Inc.

(1) ACCOUNTANT
- Must be a college graduate in Finance and Accounting
- With at least 5 years of related work experience in financial reporting and general accounting
- Good analytical ability and proficient in Peachtree & Quickbooks

Applications may be picked up at Pacific Basin Insurance Company Ground Flr. Oceanside Plaza Bldg. Garapan, Saipan

Pacific Basin Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0471
-v-	:	
DOLORES PUA POMEE and SAMISONI POMEE, Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 7, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 227, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 30, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of April, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Massage Therapist

All applicants should have a min. 3 yrs work related exp. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hrs. Rate: $5.55/hr. Mail resume to PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email xjdjames@163.com. American Sai Green Corporation dba Asahi Beauty Parlor and Asahi Health Massage.

LFP Corp. dba Marg's Kitchen
has an opening for

(1) Baker – Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years. Must be willing to work from 3:00 a.m. Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants please send your resume to:
LFP Corp. dba Marg's Kitchen P.O. Box 5527, CHRB.
Saipan, MP 96950
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Tun Goru Snack Bar
has an opening for

(1) Salesperson – Part Time Only
Must be fluent in reading, writing, and speaking English. Must have good mathematical skills. Must have previous exp. of at least 3 yrs. Must be willing to report to work at 5:00 a.m. on weekdays and work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Salary $5.55 p/hr.

Interested applicants, please send Resume to:
Tun Goru Snack Bar, P.O. Box 5527 Saipan, MP 96950
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- Steel worker – Welders
- Plumbers
- Trades Assistants
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Local Applicants are encouraged to apply – Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email:
misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
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- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Beautician – Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors/highlights/rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure, acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.

Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Head Cook
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, maintain stock inventories, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and supervise the operations of the kitchen and food storage areas.
Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as chief cook, line cook or station chef in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with extensive experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline.

Position: Cook (2)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation.
Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline.
Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.
Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is May 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Officer Positions

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the positions of Zoning Officers. These are full-time positions on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys to inspect compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 2 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary begins at $25,000.00, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from the Zoning Office. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Friday, May 30th, at 4:30pm.

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) CARPENTER
(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- With 4 to 5 years experience

If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001
Tel: 285-5354

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Cooks
- Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years.
- Salary $5.55 per hour.
- Must be willing to work from 3:00 in the morning.
- Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Please submit your resume at Tun Goru Snack Bar
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

WHATZIT Solution: Bowled over

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Clippers stun Thunder 101-99 to tie series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After being thoroughly outplayed for over 40 minutes, the Los Angeles Clippers fought back.

Leading the way was a player not known for coming up big in the clutch.

Darren Collison scored eight of his 18 points in the final 2:58, rallying the Clippers past the Oklahoma City Thunder 101-99 on Sunday to tie the Western Conference semifinal series 2-2.

"Even though we didn't play well throughout the game, we were able to get a win," Collison said. "That feels more impressive than anything we did."

Russell Westbrook, who scored 27 points, missed a 3-pointer and Serge Ibaka's tip attempt was too late at the buzzer, allowing the Clippers to salvage a game they trailed until the final 1:23.

"It was a good look," Westbrook said. "Just didn't go in."

Blake Griffin led Los Angeles with 25 points, making 9 of 11 free throws. Jamal Crawford added 18 points. DeAndre Jordan had 14 rebounds, helping the Clippers win the boards, 45-43—the first time in 11 playoff games the Thunder were outrebounded.

"We just willed this one. We found a way," said Chris Paul, who had 23 points and 10 assists.

Kevin Durant scored 40 points, hitting 15 of 18 free throws, for the Thunder. "We let this one slip away," he said. "We could have took control of the series."

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Oklahoma City.

"We were almost on the mat and we got off of it. We didn't get pinned," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "They're seething right now. They had an opportunity to go up 3-1 and now it's an even series."

It was the 14th comeback—and largest yet—by the Clippers this season after trailing by double digits. They rallied from 12 points down in the second quarter of Game 7 to oust Golden State in the first round.

"This is one of the best ones yet," Paul said. "Darren Collison was amazing. You just got to love a guy like that who plays with so much heart and never gives up."

The Clippers had no answer for Durant and Westbrook until midway through the fourth quarter. That dynamic duo drove the lane with abandon, drew fouls and made free throws in leading the Thunder to an early 22-point lead.

Durant's three-point play early in the fourth extended the Thunder's lead to 15 points, and they were still up by 10 with 7:44 to go.

But the comeback Clippers were not to be denied.

"Everybody kept telling each other, `Chip away, chip away,'" Griffin said. "That was kind of our mentality for the rest of the game. We just kept fighting."

The Clippers stole a page out of the Thunder's playbook, switching to a smaller lineup that included Collison and Danny Granger, who helped disrupt the Thunder's rebounding late.

Paul willed his team back into it, scoring six straight points to get the Clippers within six. Griffin, who was saddled with five fouls, made three of four free throws before Collison got hot.

"The whole time I'm thinking, `We can't be down 3-1, we just can't be down 3-1 going to Oklahoma," Collison said.

With the game tied at 97, Collison scored the Clippers' final four points on layups. Crawford passed to a streaking Collison for a fast-break conversion on the second one for a 101-97 lead with 32 seconds left. Westbrook scored for the Thunder, but after Griffin missed, Westbrook did too to end the game.

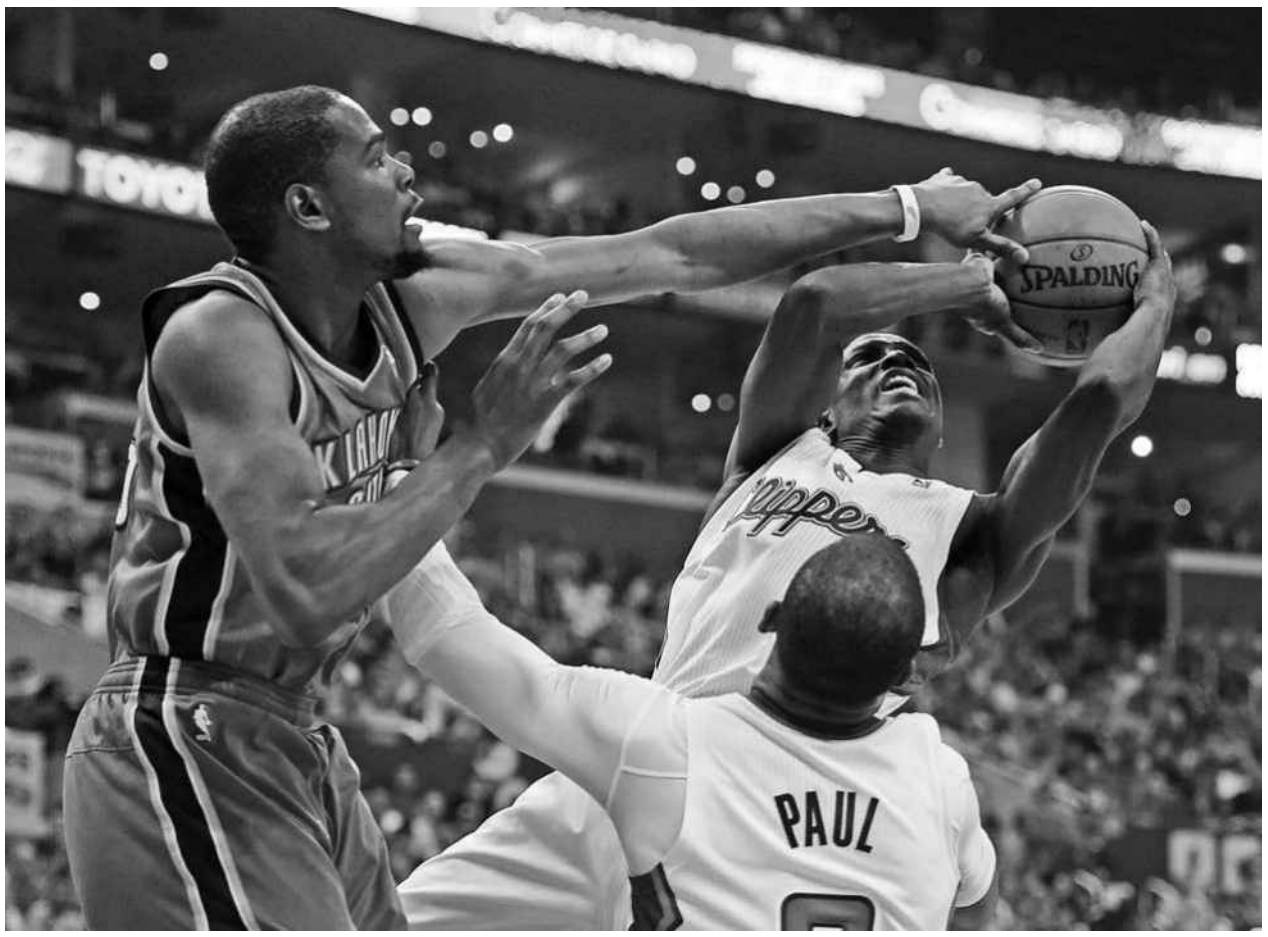
"Did that really just happen?" a still stunned Crawford said.

Paul missed all five of his shots in the third, when Griffin picked up three fouls to give him five, and Crawford and Jordan each got their third.

Ibaka, who shot 9 of 10 in the Thunder's Game 3 win, got his fourth foul, along with Westbrook in the third. The Clippers came as close as eight points before Reggie Jackson's 3-pointer beat the shot clock to keep the Thunder ahead 75-63 going into the fourth.

The Thunder had the Clippers on their heels from the opening tip, with Oklahoma City shooting 65 percent in building a 22-point lead.

Oklahoma City outscored the Clippers 32-15 in the first; the fewest points they've allowed in a quarter of a playoff game.



AP

Los Angeles Clippers guard Darren Collison, upper right, puts up a shot as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, left, defends and Clippers guard Chris Paul looks on in the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 11, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Clippers' Sterling apologizes, says 'not a racist'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling apologized Sunday for racist comments captured on tape, saying they were a "terrible mistake."

"I'm not a racist," Sterling told CNN's Anderson Cooper in excerpts posted from an interview taped Sunday and set to air Monday. "I made a terrible mistake. I'm here to apologize."

In his first public comments since being banned for life from the NBA, Sterling said years of good behavior as an owner should count toward his future.

"I'm a good member who made a mistake," Sterling said. "Am I entitled to one mistake, am I after 35 years? I mean, I love my league, I love my partners. Am I entitled to one mistake? It's a terrible mistake, and I'll never do it again."

The interview came nearly two weeks after NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling, fined him $2.5 million and urged the other league owners to force him to sell the team.

Sterling said he waited to make a public apology because he was "emotionally distraught."

"The reason it's hard for me, very hard for me, is that I'm wrong," Sterling said. "I caused the problem. I don't know how to correct it."

He later added, "If the owners feel I have another chance, then they'll give it to me."

Sterling's comments came on the same day ABC News posted excerpts of an interview his estranged wife gave to Barbara Walters.

Shelly Sterling said she would fight to keep her 50 percent ownership stake of the team.

"I will fight that decision," Shelly Sterling said. "To be honest with you, I'm wondering if a wife of one of the owners, and there's 30 owners, did something like that, said those racial slurs, would they oust the husband? Or would they leave the husband in?

"I don't know why I should be punished for what his actions were."

NBA spokesman Mike Bass released a statement Sunday night in response to Shelly Sterling's comments.

"Under the NBA constitution, if a controlling owner's interest is terminated by a three-quarter vote, all other team owners' interests are automatically terminated as well," Bass said. "It doesn't matter whether the owners are related as is the case here. These are the rules to which all NBA owners agreed to as a condition of owning their team."

Shelly Sterling's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, responded to the NBA's statement.

"We do not agree with the league's self-serving interpretation of its constitution, its application to Shelly Sterling or its validity under these unique circumstances," O'Donnell said. "We live in a nation of laws. California law and the United States Constitution trump any such interpretation."

ABC posted initial excerpts of Shelly Sterling's interview and planned to air the rest of it Monday.

Shelly Sterling also said she "eventually" will divorce her husband, and that she hadn't yet done so due to financial considerations.

"For the last 20 years, I've been seeing attorneys for a divorce," she said. "In fact, I have here—I just filed—I was going to file the petition. I signed the petition for a divorce. And it came to almost being filed. And then, my financial adviser and my attorney said to me, `Not now.'"

Pacers 95, Wizards 92

In Washington, Paul George forced Indiana Pacers coach Frank Vogel to leave him on the court.

George took—and made—the key shots, to the tune of a career playoff-high 39 points. He grabbed rebounds, 12 in all. He guarded the Wizards' most dangerous scorer. When there was a loose ball, it was George diving to the floor to collect it.

In sum, the tireless George willed the up-and-down Pacers within one victory of a return trip to the Eastern Conference finals, playing every second of the final three quarters as Indiana erased a 19-point deficit to beat Washington.

"I kept wanting to try to get him a rest, and he kept saying, `No,'" Vogel said. "And usually I'll override that, but he kept making big shots, too."

Roy Hibbert had 17 points and nine rebounds, continuing his recent surge after a poor-as-can-be, zero-point, zero-rebound showing in Game 1. He responded with 28 points in Game 2, then 14 in Game 3, before helping Indiana win its third consecutive game Sunday, when Hibbert said he got a motivational boost from what he called a heckling fan.

"He woke me up," Hibbert said. "He said I was tired. He was saying a lot of obscenities. I'm a God-fearing man, so I'm not going to go ahead and say what he was saying."

After dropping Game 1, the Pacers have won three in a row to go up 3-1 and can close out the best-of-seven series at home Tuesday night. Only eight teams in NBA history have blown that lead.

"We've got a chance to make something happen," said Washington's Bradley Beal, who was hounded at the defensive end by George and worked hard to get his 20 points.

Beal might be right, but Washington better figure out how to limit George, who averaged 14.5 points in Games 1 and 2, but ramped that up with 23 Friday.

And he was not about to let Vogel put him on the sideline down the stretch Sunday.

In all, George played 46 minutes, and he scored 28 points after halftime.

"I already had it in my head that I was pretty much going to go the whole distance," George said. "There was a moment where I was pretty gassed, but that second wind kicked in."

The Wizards were up 17 at halftime, then made it 57-38 on Nene's basket to open the third quarter.

But Washington showed a propensity this season for blowing double-digit leads—the Wizards lost 11 games after being up by at least 10 points—and again fell apart.

"We never panicked," Pacers forward David West said.

George's 3 with 5 1/2 minutes left made it 85-79, and another 30 seconds later made it 85-82, giving him seven from beyond the arc, matching a franchise postseason mark held by Reggie Miller and Chuck Person.

George also helped the Pacers limit the Wizards to one field goal over the final 7 1/2 minutes.

John Wall gave Washington its last lead at 91-90 with about 2 minutes to go. George pushed Indiana back in front with two foul shots, and the Pacers forced a shot-clock violation. Hibbert made a 12-foot turnaround hook shot with 1:02 remaining to put the Pacers up 94-91, and sprinted down the court, his arms spread, his smile wide.

Left all alone, Wall passed up an open 3-pointer, instead sending the ball to Beal, who missed a 3 try with under 50 seconds left.

"That's what the play was for, and I made the right decision," Wall said.

The Pacers are playing much more like the team that pushed the Miami Heat to seven games in last season's conference finals, and the one that earned the No. 1 seeding by going 46-13 at the start of this season. They're looking less like the bunch that went 10-13 down the stretch this year, then needed seven games to sneak past Atlanta in the first round.

"We go through ups and downs, and highs and lows," said Hibbert, who scored two points before halftime, 15 after.

What's clear is this: When Paul is at his best, the Pacers are, too.

"Paul is Paul. You know that you're going to get 150 percent every time he's on the court," Hill said. "He knows he's the go-to guy on this team."

Red Sox back above .500 with 5-2 win at Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—A.J. Pierzynski and Mike Napoli had run-producing hits in the first inning against their former team as the Boston Red Sox got above .500 for the first time since three games into the season with a series-clinching 5-2 victory at Texas on Sunday.

Napoli put the Red Sox ahead to stay with an RBI double, two batters before Pierzynski's two-run single. Both went to Boston as free agents after being in Texas — Pierzynski was the Rangers primary catcher last season, and Napoli was there the previous two years.

John Lackey (5-2) struck out nine while allowing two runs over seven innings.

Rangers lefty Robbie Ross (1-4) made it through 6 2-3 innings and a career-high 112 pitches.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher John Lackey works against the Texas Rangers in the first inning of a baseball game on Sunday, May 11, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Royals 9, Mariners 7

In Seattle, Alcides Escobar hit a grand slam and Johnny Giavotella added a three-run shot to give the Royals a comeback victory over the Mariners.

Escobar had provided a 4-0 lead for the Royals in the second with his first career home run off starter Roenis Elias. But the Mariners rallied behind two homers from Dustin Ackley and another from Kyle Seager before Kansas City took the lead in the seventh, scoring four runs off reliever Danny Farquhar (1-1).

Louis Coleman (1-0), who worked a scoreless sixth, earned the victory.

The Mariners committed a season-high four errors.

Indians 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Josh Tomlin won his second straight start, and Nyjer Morgan and Michael Bourn both drove in two runs as the Indians beat the Rays.

Tomlin (2-0), who pitched just once in the big leagues last season after right elbow surgery in 2012, allowed two runs and six hits over six innings in his second outing this year.

Morgan hit his first major league homer since July 30, 2012, an eighth-inning solo shot.

Matt Joyce homered and had two RBIs for the Rays, who went 1-5 on their homestand. Chris Archer (2-2) gave up four runs and eight hits in five-plus innings.

Astros 5, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Jason Castro and Marc Krauss homered to account for all of Houston's runs as the Astros beat the Orioles to avoid a three-game sweep.

Jarred Cosart (2-3) allowed two runs and eight hits over six innings for the Astros, who had lost seven of eight before ending Baltimore's five-game winning streak.

Castro hit a three-run homer off Chris Tillman (3-2) in the first inning and Krauss connected against T.J. McFarland with a runner on in the seventh. Houston is 11-11 when it hits a home run and 1-15 when it doesn't.

Although the Astros' bullpen came in with a 6.21 ERA, Tony Sipp struck out five in two perfect innings and Chad Qualls worked the ninth for his second save.

Angels 9, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Jered Weaver won his fourth straight decision, Hank Conger hit a three-run homer and had a career-high five RBIs as the Angels beat Toronto for their seventh straight win over the Blue Jays.

Conger went 3 for 4 with a walk. He hit an RBI double in the fourth, homered in the sixth and added an RBI single in the ninth.

Howie Kendrick had three hits, two stolen bases and scored three times as the Angels won their third straight.

Weaver (4-2) improved to 4-0 with a 1.71 ERA in his past four starts.

Blue Jays right-hander Drew Hutchison (1-3), who has not won in seven starts, allowed three runs and three hits in 4 1-3 innings. He matched a career-high with four walks and struck out five.

Twins 4, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Eduardo Nunez hit a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning as the Twins rallied for a victory over the Tigers.

The Twins took advantage of poor defense by the Tigers in the late innings. Minnesota scored three runs in the eighth, spoiling another fine start by Detroit rookie Robbie Ray.

The Tigers led 3-1 with two outs in the eighth when Josmil Pinto singled to left field off Joba Chamberlain (1-2) with runners on first and second. One run scored on the hit, but the ball skipped past left fielder Rajai Davis for an error that tied the game and allowed Pinto to reach second.

Nunez followed with his single to make it 4-3.

Jared Burton (1-1) won in relief. Glen Perkins got four outs for his 10th save in 11 chances.

Athletics 9, Nationals 1

In Oakland, California, Derek Norris hit a pair of three-run home runs to back Scott Kazmir's fifth win as the Athletics beat the Nationals to complete a series sweep.

Both of Norris' home runs came on identical two-out, 3-0 pitches from Washington starter and former Oakland pitcher Gio Gonzalez (3-3).

Nick Punto added two hits and three RBIs while Brandon Moss singled twice and doubled. Oakland has won four straight since dropping five of six against Boston and Seattle.

Kazmir (5-1) bounced back from his first loss of the year to pitch seven scoreless innings while allowing only four hits.

Diamondbacks 5, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Chase Anderson won his major league debut, Gerardo Parra and Miguel Montero homered as the Diamondbacks beat the White Sox.

Recalled Tuesday from Double-A Mobile, Anderson (1-0) hadn't seen any action until Sunday and he excelled in his first big league appearance, at one point retiring 12 consecutive batters. He allowed one run and only two hits in 5 1-3 innings while striking out six, helping Arizona win for the fourth time in five games and secure its third consecutive series for the first time since June 2012.

Parra's fifth-inning drive off Hector Noesi (0-3) gave Arizona a 3-0 lead.

Giants 7, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Pablo Sandoval and Hector Sanchez hit RBI singles in the 10th inning as the San Francisco Giants recovered to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers after closer Sergio Romo gave up a tying homer to Hanley Ramirez.

Brandon Hicks hit a two-run shot off Clayton Kershaw, and Buster Posey had an RBI single for the NL West leaders, who beat the defending division champions for the seventh time in 10 meetings this season.

The Giants finished their road trip 7-3 and played errorless ball over the last five games.

Romo (3-0) came on in the ninth to try and protect a 4-2 lead for Tim Hudson. The right-hander struck out Yasiel Puig after a one-out double by Dee Gordon, but Ramirez lined his fifth homer to left field. The blown save was Romo's first this season in 13 chances.

Angel Pagan drew a leadoff walk in the 10th from Kenley Jansen (0-2) before Hunter Pence singled.

Jean Machi got three outs for his first major league save.

Reds 4, Rockies 1

In Cincinnati, Aroldis Chapman made his first major league appearance since being hit above the eye by a line drive during spring training, striking out the side in the ninth inning with his 100 mph (161 kph) fastball to close out Cincinnati's victory over Colorado.

Todd Frazier hit his second 400-foot home run in three days to back Homer Bailey (3-2) as the Reds won the rubber match of the three-game series.

Chapman was greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd of 33,143. He reached 100 mph with his first pitch and topped out at 102 mph in earning the save. Chapman had been out since a frightening injury March 19.

Skip Schumaker drove in two runs and the Reds capitalized on two throwing errors to send the Rockies to their third loss in four games. Charlie Blackmon hit his ninth homer for Colorado.

Bailey allowed four hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Juan Nicasio (4-2) gave up four runs — two earned — in six innings.

Braves 5, Cubs 2

In Atlanta, Evan Gattis hit a tiebreaking homer and Jason Heyward added a two-run shot as Atlanta beat Chicago to complete a three-game sweep.

Gattis gave the Braves a 3-2 advantage with his homer off Edwin Jackson in the fourth inning. Heyward added to the lead with his first home run since April 9.

Aaron Harang (4-3) gave up two runs in six innings with nine strikeouts. David Carpenter pitched the ninth for his second save as closer Craig Kimbrel was rested after pitching two straight days.

Jackson (2-3) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

The NL East-leading Braves have recovered from seven straight losses by winning four of five. The Cubs, last in the NL Central, have dropped seven of eight.

Mets 5, Phillies 4, 11 innings

In New Yok, Daniel Murphy and the New York Mets suddenly rallied for three runs in the ninth inning against Philadelphia's improvised bullpen, then ended a five-game losing streak off Ruben Tejada's single in the 11th.

Down 4-1, the punchless Mets fought back in the ninth, sparked by Murphy's two-run homer off Antonio Bastardo. Chris Young ended his 0-for-18 slump with a double, and Juan Lagares drove in the tying run with a slow grounder against Roberto Hernandez — who started Friday night and threw 99 pitches.

Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg said closer Jonathan Papelbon was sore and unavailable to pitch in a third straight game.

Scott Rice (1-1) got Reid Brignac on a grounder with two runners on to finish the top of the 11th.

Jeff Manship (1-1) took the loss.

New York's comeback denied Cole Hamels his elusive first win of the season and the 100th of his career. He struck out 10 in seven innings while throwing a whopping 133 pitches, the most of any major leaguer this year.

Padres 5, Marlins 4

In San Diego, Will Venable hit a leadoff homer as San Diego beat Miami for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

The resurgent Padres offense, which has scored 24 runs in three games, also got two hits and two RBIs from Chris Denorfia.

Robbie Erlin (2-4) scattered five hits over 6 1-3 scoreless innings before giving way to three relievers. Huston Street pitched around a hit and two walks in the ninth to earn his 11th save.

Erlin, who didn't walk a batter, had seven strikeouts to match a career high. He had lost four straight decisions.

Padres pitchers struck out 48 in the four-game series to set a franchise record.

Henderson Alvarez (2-3), who was coming off his second shutout of the season and third in his last eight starts, wasn't sharp. He lasted four innings, allowing five runs and seven hits with three walks. Christian Yelich homered for the Marlins and Jeff Baker had a two-run triple.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Shelby Miller won his fourth straight start and Trevor Rosenthal induced a bases-loaded double play to end the game as the Cardinals held off the Pirates.

Allen Craig and Yadier Molina had two hits each, including RBI singles in a four-run first inning. Craig went 5-for-11 in the three-game series after entering with a .202 batting average. Molina was 0-for-12 in his previous four games.

Miller (5-2) walked four and allowed four hits in 5 1-3 innings, but held the Pirates to just two runs — which came on Jordy Mercer's first home run of the season in the fourth inning.

Rosenthal gave up a run in the ninth that made it 5-4, but got Mercer to hit into a 1-2-3 double play to end it.

Charlie Morton (0-5) took the loss.

Brewers 6, Yankees 5

In Milwaukee, Mark Reynolds hit a game-ending single with two outs in the ninth inning as Milwaukee overcame Francisco Rodriguez's first blown save of the season to beat New York.

Rickie Weeks doubled just inside first base with one out before going to third on a wild pitch by reliever Adam Warren (1-2).

Reynolds, who spent part of last season with the Yankees, held his right index finger in the air after his hard chopper bounced past diving third baseman Yangervis Solarte.

New York was one strike from defeat in the top of the ninth when Mark Teixeira homered off Rodriguez (1-0). It was the first run allowed all season by the veteran closer.

Before the game, the Yankees put struggling left-hander CC Sabathia on the disabled list with a right knee injury.

Kaymer holds on to win Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Martin Kaymer never lost sight of opportunity even amid so much evidence of trouble in the closing stretch Sunday at The Players Championship.

A bad chip led to double bogey. A bad decision cost him a chance at birdie. With his lead suddenly down to one shot, he watched his ball soar against the gray sky toward the scariest island in golf and figured it would be fine.

What followed was a bounce sideways instead of forward, mystifying spin that nearly sent his ball over the edge and into the drink, a chip with his feet pressed near the wooden frame of the island and a 30-foot par putt that Kaymer chalked up to instinct and luck.

"It was a very strange way to make 3," he said.

But it was enough to carry the 29-year-old German to a one-shot victory over Jim Furyk in a final round filled with stress, emotion and a large dose of satisfaction.

Kaymer got up-and-down with his putter from short of the 18th green for one last par, giving him a 1-under 71 and his first victory in nearly 18 months. The only time he nearly lost his composure was when talking about his mother, Rina, who died of cancer six years. He has a sunflower, her favorite flower, on his golf bag. His brother, Phillip, sent him a text that he described only as a "very emotional."

"To win on Mother's Day ... we show our parents way too little," he said. "We always need some occasions to show them, which is what you realize when they're not there anymore. So to win on those days ... it adds a little bit of a nice thing to the whole week.

"I think about her every day. I don't need a Mother's Day."

Furyk closed with a 66, having to wait out a 90-minute rain delay to make a 3-foot par putt. It looked as though it might be enough to force a playoff, or even win outright when Kaymer started to struggle. Just as he did last week at Quail Hollow, Furyk could only watch on TV from the locker room and settle for second place.

"I did what I could," Furyk said. "I left it all on the golf course, and I hung it all out there today and every cliche you can think of. I played hard today."

Sergio Garcia (70) finished alone in third, though he never got within two shots of the lead at any point.

That wasn't the case with 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, who was tied with Kaymer going into the final round. He made his first bogey of the tournament on the fifth hole, and four more bogeys followed in his round of 74. He tied for fourth.

"I'm stinging right now," Spieth said, a runner-up at the Masters. "It's not fun being that close and having opportunities and being in the lead on Sunday and not pulling it off."

The typical stress that Sawgrass brings on Sunday was contained to the final hour, and it was almost more than Kaymer could take. He was sailing along until the lightning flashes and rain forced the rain delay. He had a three-shot lead with five holes left and was a different player when the round resumed.

AP

Martin Kaymer of Germany, lifts the The Players championship trophy TPC Sawgrass, Sunday, May 11, 2014 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

He made double bogey from an aggressive play behind a pine tree on the 15th. He nervously chose putter from a collection area on the par-5 16th that turned a simple chance at birdie into a par.

Nothing could top the 17th hole, the most exciting on the Stadium Course. When his chip shot stopped just inside 30 feet from the hole, and bogey looked certain, Kaymer figured he still had one more hole. He couldn't see the line in the approaching darkness, though he remembered it from practice rounds.

When it dropped, he walked to the side and slammed his clenched fist in celebration, rare emotion for the German.

"Making a putt like this is more than big," he said. "I think I will realize it the next few days."

Kaymer finished at 13-under 275 and joined an elite group by winning the biggest event on golf's strongest tour. Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Adam Scott are the only other players to win a major, a World Golf Championship and The Players Championship.

For Spieth, it was his second big tournament in the final group. Tied for the lead through seven holes, he dropped shots to Kaymer on each of the next four holes—two bogeys by Spieth, two birdies by Kaymer.

Kaymer had just over 3 feet left for par on the 18th, and it made him think of his winning putt to beat Steve Stricker and ensure that Europe kept the Ryder Cup at Medinah two years ago. The celebration was different. This was for him, and a long journey back from when he won the 2010 PGA Championship, reached No. 1 in the world six months later, and then set out to improve his swing to avoid being a one-dimensional player.

"When I was standing over the putt, I just thought, `It would be really nice to make that putt now, would be a very nice way to finish,'" he said.

FALCONS

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nings before taking a breather in favor of Max Pangelinan.

Yaguel had a rough start, allowing back-to-back singles at the top of the first inning, but got the last two outs (strike out and 1-3 putout play) to leave two Comets I runners stranded. Five more Comets I runners were stuck on base with Yaguel still on the mound in the next four innings, allowing the Falcons to build a 3-0 lead.

The defending champions got into the board off Pangelinan's RBI single in the third and added two more runs in the fourth with Angel Iguel scoring off a Comets I fielding error and Justin Cangco reaching home off an RBI walk. The Falcons then made it a 6-0 advantage at the bottom of the fifth with Cangco's single driving Iguel home and the former also scoring off another Comets I miscue, while Yaguel reached off a passed ball.

Yaguel remained on the mound for the Falcons at the top of the last inning and moved two outs away from eliminating Comets I when leadoff batter Clarence Cabrera returned to the bench off a 6-3 putout play. However, Comets I bought some time, thanks to Nifton Rasiang and Glen Taro's back-to-back doubles. Taro's double drove Rasiang home, while the former also reached off Francisco Frederick's double. Frederick's double came after Comets I was called for the second out with Iguel catching a fly near home plate and throwing to Cangco at first base to beat runner Ross Arriola.

Now ahead by only four, 6-2, and with two outs, the Falcons pulled out Yaguel and inserted Pangelinan to their defensive lineup. Pangelinan pitched to Henrick Delos Reyes, who made contact with the ball, but Yaguel, who moved to third base, picked up the grounder and threw to Cangco for the third out.

In the other semis game, the Braves won the exchange in the first three innings and withstood McDonald's rally to advance to the finals and avoid the latter's upset bid. McDonald's came from a 5-4 stunner against IT&E before falling short versus the Braves.

The Braves kicked off their finals bid with a four-run bottom of the first starting pitcher Joe Tudela and Hosehio Alvarez hitting RBI singles and the team getting two more runs off a passed ball. McDonald's failed to score at the top of the first before nailing three in the second off L.J. Reyes and Sunjoon Tenorio's RBI singles and Kiku Hapdei's run from the Braves error. It was the Braves' turn to go run-less at the bottom of the second, but they recovered in the third with five runs for a 9-3 advantage. Tudela, Vicente Camacho, and Blade Igitol had RBI doubles each at the bottom of the third, while Alvarez earned an RBI single, and the fifth run came off a bunt from Isaiah Teigita.

The five runs in the third inning gave the Braves enough cushion in the last three innings despite failing to make it to the board in that stretch, while McDonald's tried to mount a comeback. A.J. Sanchez blasted a two-run single in the fourth, Donovan Deleon Guerrero had an RBI single in the fifth, and the former also scored in the sixth off a sacrifice out to move McDonald's within two with two outs. The Braves went on to get the third out with Hapdei coming up with two straight empty swings against Camacho for the third out.

Meanwhile, in McDonald's win over IT&E in the quarterfinals, it was the latter's Devin Ayuyu, not Denzel Pangilinan, who committed the error in the sixth inning.

BREWERS

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second with leadoff batter Gary Cruz advancing to first after a hit by pitch. Cruz went on to move to second off a Cepeda wild pitch and a Brewers fielding booboo, but was eventually booted out on a run-down play. The Yankees' second attempt to score happened in the seventh inning with Tim Cruz hitting a single and running all the way to the third off the Brewers' miscues with only one out, but the Brewers again spoiled the party, catching two straight fly balls.

The Yankees then finally got into the board at the bottom of the eighth inning to start a rally. Chris Camacho scored the first run off a fielder's choice, while Ben Flores made it two in a row off a Greg Iskawa single with two outs and runners on second and third. The Brewers went on to leave the two runners stranded, as centerfielder Marvin Kaipat caught another fly ball to end the frame.

A Brewers' 1-2-3 play off two consecutive strikeouts from relief pitcher Dave Camacho and a 4-3 putout play at the top of the ninth and last inning kept the Yankees' hopes alive, going into the last inning. However, the Yankees were also done after only three batters at the bottom of the ninth inning, handing the Brewers the Game 1 win. Cepeda struck out leadoff batter Ben Jones, while Kaipat got his third straight fly out, as he chased a shot from A.J. Lizama with the ball heading far deep to centerfield. Brian Camacho committed the third out when he was charged with a running path violation.

PAIRE

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ond championship after shutting out Matansa in the 2013 finals, 3-0.

This season, MP United has a chance to go for back-to-back crown and third since the inception of the tournament four years ago after eliminating Matansa in the first semis game. MP United recorded the lone goal in the semis match off a Matansa error in the 29th minute.

In the second Final Four pairing, Jamin Elliot lifted Paire to victory, scoring back-to-back goals against Tan Holdings. Elliot nailed his first goal in the 10th minute and got his second one in the 35th. Tan Holdings was without a goal in the first half, but attempted a comeback in the second frame when Thaiphi Austria found the back of the net early in that period to force a standoff. However, Elliot earned his second goal and four minutes later, Raffi Lee canned the insurance.

Paire will play the winner-take-all finals against MP United this Thursday at 4:30pm at the San Antonio Elementary School Field. San Antonio will also host today's consolation match between Matansa U12 and Tan Holdings U12 at 4:30pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	20	15	.571	—
New York	19	17	.528	1½
Boston	19	18	.514	2
Toronto	18	20	.474	3½
Tampa Bay	16	22	.421	5½
Central Division				
Detroit	21	12	.636	—
Chicago	19	20	.487	5
Kansas City	18	19	.486	5
Cleveland	18	20	.474	5½
Minnesota	17	19	.472	5½
West Division				
Oakland	23	15	.605	—
Los Angeles	19	17	.528	3
Seattle	19	18	.514	3½
Texas	19	19	.500	4
Houston	12	26	.316	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	15	.583	—
Miami	20	18	.526	2
Washington	19	18	.514	2½
New York	17	19	.472	4
Philadelphia	17	19	.472	4
Central Division				
Milwaukee	24	14	.632	—
St. Louis	19	19	.500	5
Cincinnati	17	19	.472	6
Pittsburgh	16	21	.432	7½
Chicago	12	24	.333	11
West Division				
San Francisco	24	14	.632	—
Colorado	23	17	.575	2
Los Angeles	20	19	.513	4½
San Diego	18	21	.462	6½
Arizona	15	25	.375	10

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Scores Sunday from the $10-million Players Championship, played at the par-72, 7,215-yard TPC Sawgrass, Players Stadium Course

FINAL ROUND

Martin Kaymer (600), $1,800,000	63-69-72-71–275
Jim Furyk (330), $1,080,000	70-68-72-66–276
Sergio Garcia (210), $680,000	67-71-69-70–277
Justin Rose (135), $440,000	67-71-71-69–278
Jordan Spieth (135), $440,000	67-66-71-74–278
David Hearn (95), $313,000	70-71-68-70–279
Rory McIlroy (95), $313,000	70-74-69-66–279
Francesco Molinari, $313,000	72-70-67-70–279
Jimmy Walker (95), $313,000	75-68-71-65–279
Lee Westwood (95), $313,000	67-71-71-70–279
Brian Davis (75), $240,000	72-67-73-68–280
Gary Woodland (75), $240,000	67-71-70-72–280
K.J. Choi (63), $187,500	74-70-72-65–281
Chris Kirk (63), $187,500	71-73-70-67–281
George McNeill (63), $187,500	71-68-69-73–281
Steve Stricker (63), $187,500	71-70-71-69–281
Russell Henley (53), $135,333	65-71-80-66–282
Justin Hicks (53), $135,333	73-70-71-68–282
Morgan Hoffmann (53), $135,333	71-70-70-71–282
Matt Jones (53), $135,333	70-69-69-74–282
Matt Kuchar (53), $135,333	71-71-69-71–282
Brian Stuard (53), $135,333	67-76-69-70–282
Marc Leishman (47), $96,000	70-72-74-67–283
Hideki Matsuyama (47), $96,000	70-71-72-70–283
Daniel Summerhays (47), $96,000	74-68-69-72–283
Kevin Chappell (42), $69,500	72-68-75-69–284
Bill Haas (42), $69,500	68-71-72-73–284
Billy Horschel (42), $69,500	72-70-75-67–284
Zach Johnson (42), $69,500	69-71-72-72–284
Ryan Moore (42), $69,500	70-74-67-73–284
John Senden (42), $69,500	70-69-68-77–284
Brendan Steele (42), $69,500	69-73-75-67–284
Bo Van Pelt (42), $69,500	71-70-70-73–284
Erik Compton (36), $52,750	72-70-74-69–285
Russell Knox (36), $52,750	72-72-73-68–285
Scott Langley (36), $52,750	71-72-72-70–285
Henrik Stenson (36), $52,750	71-70-70-74–285
Angel Cabrera (29), $38,000	70-74-71-71–286
Stewart Cink (29), $38,000	70-70-70-76–286
Jamie Donaldson, $38,000	74-67-74-71–286
Luke Donald (29), $38,000	73-69-75-69–286
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (29), $38,000	67-77-72-70–286
Charley Hoffman (29), $38,000	77-67-71-71–286
Justin Leonard (29), $38,000	68-73-70-75–286
Kevin Na (29), $38,000	70-69-76-71–286
Rory Sabbatini (29), $38,000	71-73-69-73–286
Adam Scott (29), $38,000	77-67-69-73–286
Charlie Beljan (18), $24,073	73-69-73-72–287
Jason Dufner (18), $24,073	69-74-72-72–287
Martin Flores (18), $24,073	70-71-74-72–287
Retief Goosen (18), $24,073	72-70-75-70–287
J.J. Henry (18), $24,073	74-70-72-71–287
Jeff Maggert (18), $24,073	72-71-74-70–287
Pat Perez (18), $24,073	68-73-75-71–287
Charl Schwartzel (18), $24,073	72-67-77-71–287
Steven Bowditch (18), $24,073	72-72-71-72–287
Brandt Snedeker (18), $24,073	75-69-67-76–287
Bubba Watson (18), $24,073	69-72-70-76–287
Dustin Johnson (11), $22,000	68-74-72-74–288
Ryan Palmer (11), $22,000	71-73-71-73–288
John Peterson (11), $22,000	73-69-72-74–288
Scott Brown (9), $21,500	68-71-77-73–289
Graeme McDowell (9), $21,500	69-71-77-72–289
Freddie Jacobson (7), $21,200	70-70-75-75–290
Richard H. Lee (5), $20,800	71-71-76-73–291
Ian Poulter (5), $20,800	74-69-72-76–291
Scott Stallings (5), $20,800	67-77-71-76–291
Sang-Moon Bae (3), $20,400	66-73-79-74–292
Geoff Ogilvy (2), $20,200	69-70-76-78–293
Brendon de Jonge (1), $20,000	69-74-75-76–294
Kyle Stanley (1), $19,800	73-69-76-77–295

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gwap Gang, I Love Saipan win in opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gwap Gang and I Love Saipan kicked off their campaign in the 2013 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League on a positive note after beating separate opponents last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

I Love Saipan played in the first game in the opening day of the IT&E-backed league and edged the San Roque Bandits, 78-76, while Gwap Gang dominated Digital Motion, 96-71, in the second match.

I Love Saipan banked on its 3-point shooting, drilling 13, to thwart the Bandits. Ben Pelisamen made the last two triples, which incidentally were also the final two field goals of I Love Saipan, helping his team eked out the close victory.

Pelisamen bailed I Love Saipan out of trouble against San Roque, which threatened a comeback after falling behind by 6 at the end of the third period. Pelisamen nailed 8 points in the fourth quarter alone, teaming up with White Capalad in saving I Love Saipan. Capalad hit one triple in the payoff canto and added 7 points to finish with a team-high 19 markers.

Capalad, Pelisamen, and Derrick Manglona earlier allowed I Love Saipan to turn a 31-38 halftime deficit to a 6-point advantage at the end of the third period when they connected on two triples apiece. Spitfire Mike Olaitiman chipped in 6 points in the third, as I Love Saipan outgunned San Roque, 28-15, to grab the driver's seat.

Meanwhile, in the second game, Gwap Gang was in control of its match against Digital Motion right at the get-go, taking a 25-12 lead after the first period.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gwap Gang's Jared Ano uses a pick from his teammate to drive to the baseline against Digital Motion's Webb Gontar during the first quarter of their game in the DLX/IT&E caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gwap Gang capitalized on the depleted crew of Digital Motion, which played its first game with only five players. Rodney Sacramento nearly outscored the entire Digital Motion team, registering 10 points in the first canto to lift Gwap Gang to an early double-digit spread.

Digital Motion's lack of manpower made it impossible for the team to mount a comeback in the last three quarters.

First Game

I Love Saipan 78 – Capalad 19, M. Olaitiman 16, Pelisamen 14, Ruluked 12, Manglona 8, Aldan 6, J. Olaitiman 3, Lontoc 2.

San Roque 76 – Barrios 19, Guiab 19, Fernando 14, Gunacao 14, Mina 7, Salazar 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 31-38, 59-53, 78-76.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 96 – Sacramento 22, Ito 15, Deleon Guerrero 14, Yap 10, Rabauliman 10, Darag 9, Ano 6, Rabasto 6, Orejola 2.

Digital Motion 76 – Vargas 26, Gontar 22, Montano 14, Umali 6, Reyes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 25-12, 45-31, 67-48, 96-76.

Kensuke off to Oceania Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kensuke Kimura will be leaving Saipan for New Zealand this Thursday to represent the CNMI in the 2014 Oceania Swimming Championships.

Kensuke, who will be accompanied by his coach and father Hiro, will be competing in four events in the tournament that will run from May 20 to 23 at the West Wave Aquatic Centre in Auckland. The 18-year-old swimmers will race in the 50m, 100m, and 200m backstroke, and 200m individual medley and he is aiming to make it to the A finals of all events and mark CNMI national records. Kensuke holds the Commonwealth's national marks in the 50m (29.13 seconds), 100m (1:02.75), and 200m backstroke (2:19.12), while the 200m IM record still belongs to Rezne Wong, who clocked in 2:09.59 on July 31, 2013 during the 2013 FINA World Championships in Barcelona, Spain. Incidentally, Wong was the CNMI's lone representative in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia.

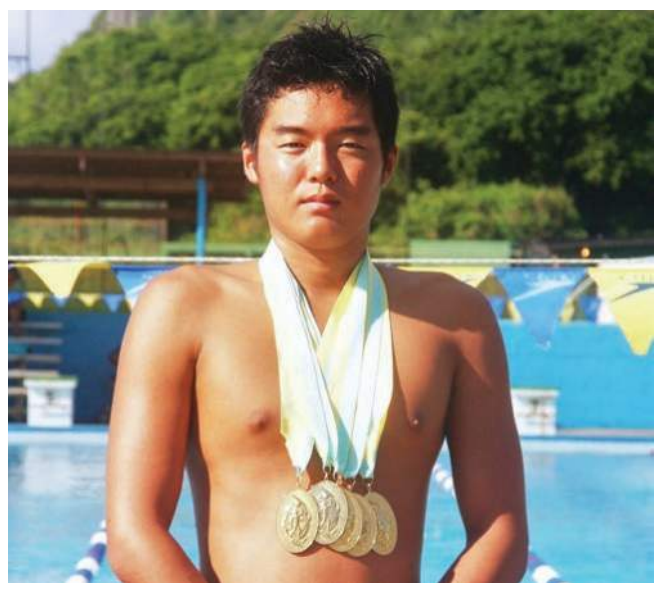
"I believe that being able to compete at the Oceania championship is the best opportunity you can have as a swimmer in Oceania region. There have been only a few swimmers from CNMI who have competed in this championship in the past and I am really honored to be the next one. I want to thank NMISF, Tsunami Swimming team, and my parents for giving me this great opportunity," Kensuke said.

"Racing with world class swimmers will definitely give me great experience, inspiration, and motivation and I believe these will help me out later in my swimming career. My goal is to break the CNMI national records for all the backstroke events and to make it to the finals as I look forward to bringing back a medal to Saipan," the Grace Christian Academy student added.

Besides competing in four events in New Zealand, Kensuke is hoping to observe or even join practice sessions of the host country, Australia, and New Caledonia.

"We have already contacted some coaches of New Zealand, Australia, and New Caledonia. We would appreciate it very much if they will invite Kensuke to join in their national team practice before the meet," said Hiro, who will meet separately with coaches to exchange ideas.

The event in New Zealand will be Kensuke's seventh off-island competition (excluding Guam). He started his string off off-island tournaments in 2010 when he suited up for the CNMI Team in the Micronesian Games in Palau where he won six gold medals. The following year, he went to Tokyo, Japan for the FINA World Cup and returned there for the Tokyo Junior Sprint several months later to win a silver medal in the 100m IM. In 2012, he was also named to the CNMI Team that participated in the FINA Short Course World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, while in 2013 he was the Commonwealth's lone representative in the Youth Olympics in Sydney and set the CNMI mark in the 200m backstroke in the Land Down Under competition. Also last year, he earned his second FINA World Championships stint, joining Wong, Victoria Chentsova, and Angel De Jesus in Barcelona.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, seen here with his gold medals from the 2010 Micronesian Games, will be competing in the 2014 Oceania Swimming Championships in New Zealand next week.

Castro eyes Top 10 finish in Bike United Tour

Youth biker Erico Castro left Saipan last Sunday to compete in the Bike United Tour of Subic in the Philippines.

The Marianas High School student will be participating in the three-stage tournament that will be held in Subic, which used to house a former U.S. base and is located in the province of Zambales. For Stage 1, which is scheduled to kick off this Friday morning, the 16-year-old Castro will be racing in a 20K individual time trial (ITT). After the ITT, Castro will return at the starting line (Puregold Store) in the afternoon for the Stage 2, which is a 60K road race. In Stage 3, which will be held this Saturday, the longest race awaits Castro, as the last part of the event will cover a distance of 90K.

The youth biker does not have a target time in each stage, but hopes to land in the Top 10 in each race. He added that he is more excited than nervous in competing in Subic and his experience in doing similar road races on Saipan will come in a handy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Erico Castro, center, receives a check donation from Team Manatee's John Jones, left, and Steve Nutting, during a brief turnover ceremony at 360 Restaurant. Also is the photo are Team Manatee members Mark Blackburn, second left, and Jim Arenovski, fourth left.

"I train on Saipan almost everyday and I do hill intervals and sprints on flats. I don't feel frightened because I have done many races similar to this. I am doing this as an added experience. I am a good sprinter, I will try my best to out-sprint my opponents," said Castro, who had done the Hell of Marianas, the road bike portion of the Tagaman Triathlon, and other regular races on the island for the past four years.

Castro's participation in the Bike United Tour of Subic and other events was made possible through the generosity of Team Manatee, Pacific Subsea, and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation. Team Manatee is composed of Stephen Nutting, Jim Anerovski, John Jones, and Mark Blackburn, while NMICF is under the leadership of Vince Seman.

Meanwhile, about two months after competing in the Philippines, Castro will leave Saipan anew to attend the USA Cycling Regional Talent Identification Camp. The nearly weeklong camp that will take place from July 13 to 18 will be held in UC Davis in California.

According to the website of USA Cycling, the camp "provides USA Cycling with junior talent evaluations while offering athletes a pathway to develop their cycling ability. It is the first step for young athletes to enter into the USA Cycling development pipeline, providing them guidance and development towards their cycling future." This year, the camp has 14 sessions, which are spread across the U.S. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Clippers stun Thunder 101-99 to tie series
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Sports

Red Sox back above .500 with 5-2 win at Rangers
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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Braves celebrate after winning over McDonald's, 9-7, in the semifinals of the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Falcons vs Braves in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons are returning to the finals and will be defending the championship against the Tanapag Braves.

The Falcons and the Braves arranged their winner-take-all finale this Saturday after prevailing in their respective semis matches in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The Falcons booked the first finals ticket after downing Comets I, 6-2, while the Braves slipped past upset-minded McDonald's, 9-7, to clinch the second and last finals berth.

Starting pitcher Arby Yaguel shut out Comets I in the first five innings before giving up two runs late in the sixth inning to lead the Falcons to another finals stint. The Falcons starting pitcher also struck out eight batters in 5.4 in-

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Brewers take series opener in SBL finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The GSM Brewers claimed Game 1 of their best-of-five title series against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League, working out a 5-2 victory in the opener last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Vince Cepeda pitched a complete game for the Brewers and denied the Yankees entry to the scoreboard in the first seven innings in the Game 1 victory. Game 2 was scheduled last night with the Yankees hoping to even the series and preventing the Brewers from taking the pivotal 2-0 advantage in the championship showdown.

With Cepeda showing composure on the mound and his teammates also holding their ground in the first seven innings, the Brewers erected a 5-0 lead. The defending champions recorded all four runs at the top of the third inning and got another one in the seventh. The Brewers got two runs off Yankees errors at shortstop and centerfield, while the two other runs came from a fielder's choice and sacrifice ground out from designated hitter Mike Pangelinan. Pangelinan then had a sacrifice fly at the top of the seventh to bring home leadoff batter Jun Rabauliman, who walked to first and stole second and third to move to scoring position.

While the Brewers managed to squeeze out some runs off the Yankees' miscues, this year's pennant champions failed to capitalize on two opportunities to make it to the board. The first chance came at the bottom of the

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Tyrone Omar leads off for GSM Brewers during the top of the first inning of Game 1 of their best-of-five title series against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire, MP United renew rivalry

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Perennial rivals MP United Football Club and Paire Football Club will collide in the finals of the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup, following their separate semis victories last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United co-ed U12 marched into the finals first after slipping past Matansa co-ed U12, 1-0, while Paire co-ed U12 downed Tan Holdings co-ed U12, 3-1, to force a rematch of the 2011 Cup finals. MP United won the finale three years ago, 1-0, while Matansa ruled the 2012 edition of the tournament for co-ed U12 teams and girls U15 squads. Last year, Paire attempted to return to the finals after it bowed to MP United anew and the latter went on to clinch its sec-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire U12 coach Tyce Mister gives instructions to his players before their semis game against Tan Holdings U12 in the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.